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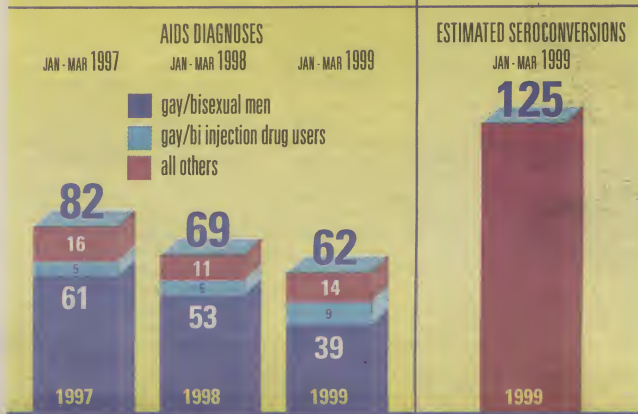
Vol. 29 • No. 19 • 13 May 1999

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AIDS cases drop in San Francisco

The good news about
HIV in San Francisco...

...and the bad



...but not HIV numbers by Cynthia Laird and Mike Salinas

Gay men were among the first to recognize a burgeoning epidemic in their midst 20 years ago, even before most of their doctors caught on, when they became aware their friends were starting to die at an accelerating rate. Now some AIDS activists hope they see the beginning of the end of the epidemic as the opposite trend becomes apparent. Although few people know it, San Francisco is now experiencing a downward trend in reported AIDS cases.

That's right. Fewer cases. "AIDS cases have been decreasing since 1992," confirms Sandy Schwarcz, director of AIDS surveillance for the city's Department of Public Health (DPH).

The city tracks AIDS cases through its quarterly surveillance reports, the most recent of which shows that 62 AIDS cases were diagnosed in the city between January 1 and March 31 of this year. Of those cases, 39 (or 63 percent) were among gay or bisexual men, nine (14.5 percent) were among gay or

bisexual male injection drug users (IDU), and nine were among non-gay male IDUs. One case was a blood transfusion recipient, and four were in the "other" category.

The number of AIDS cases diagnosed in that three-month period has dropped by 10 percent since the same period in 1998, when there were 69 cases, of which 53 were gay or bisexual men; five gay or bisexual male IDUs; nine non-gay IDUs; one heterosexual; and one "other." That, in turn, was a 16 percent drop from that period in 1997, when 82 AIDS cases were diagnosed, with 61 being gay or bisexual men; five gay or bisexual male IDU; 13 non-gay IDUs; one heterosexual, and two "other."

All in all, the incidence of AIDS diagnoses in San Francisco has dropped by 25 percent in only two years. For gay men who don't inject drugs, the rate has dropped by more than a third.

Such news would have raised shouts of joy in the past, but city officials aren't exact-

page 24 ►

City attorney files first-ever civil action under gay hate crimes law

by Mark Norby

City Attorney Louise Renne filed suit Monday, May 10 under the state hate crimes law, charging a San Francisco man with violating the civil rights of his neighbor by making anti-gay remarks and threatening him with violence. The suit is the first civil action brought by the city under the hate crimes law, which normally is used in criminal prosecutions.

Renne sought a restraining order in San Francisco Superior Court against 42-year-old Ronald Thompson for making repeated threats against his neighbor, 49-year-old William Hannapple. According to the com-

plaint, Thompson made threats against Hannapple because Hannapple is gay.

According to the complaint, Thompson first confronted Hannapple in 1993, yelling anti-gay epithets and hitting Hannapple in the shoulder. Hannapple reported the incident to police, who arrested Thompson for a parole violation.

In later incidents, Thompson allegedly attempted to run down Hannapple as Thompson passed him on his bicycle and shouted anti-gay remarks as Hannapple walked his dog in the neighborhood. In January, as Hannapple walked his dog past Thompson's house, Thompson allegedly made anti-gay remarks, simulated a gun with his fingers, pointed it at Hannapple and said, "I'll get you."

"I've exhausted every legal remedy available," Hannapple told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "So finally, I went to the city attorney. The only thing I've wanted is for Thompson to leave me alone. I just want to walk my dog in peace, to be able to exit and enter my apartment without being threatened, and he just doesn't stop bothering me."

"This suit uses the hate crimes law in a creative, preventative way," Renne said. "Rather than ask for stiffer punishment after a crime has been committed, we are asking the court to apply the law prospectively to keep the crime from being committed in the first place."

Some states have responded to lobbyists' demands for new legislation that would add sexual orientation to existing hate crimes laws. The San Francisco city attorney's office is the first to use its existing hate crimes laws — which includes sexual orientation — in an attempt to prevent more violent actions from occurring, which Renne hopes will act as a model for the rest of the country.



San Francisco City Attorney Louise Renne

"We take Mr. Thompson's threats very seriously and we are asking the court to order him to stop threatening Mr. Hannapple and to stay away from him," Renne said. "We hope this sends a strong message that the city will use all tools at its disposal to stop violence before it happens."

The suit seeks \$25,000 in damages. Other punitive damages will be sought if Thompson violates the restraining order, which includes the use of disparaging or violent language as well as any threatening physical action. ▼

\$1,000 for info on Castro robberies

by Mark Norby

Crime Stoppers, Inc. and San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. have responded to the recent wave of armed hold-ups in the Castro District by announcing that a reward of up to \$1,000 will be given for information leading to the arrests of the robbery suspects. The announcement came Tuesday, May 11 when mayoral aide Rebecca Prozan reported Brown's statement to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"The mayor would like to see this spree of armed robbery in the Castro come to an end as quickly as possible," said Prozan. "The high number of incidents puts too many people at risk and the possibility of injury is the biggest concern of the mayor's office."

As reported in last week's *B.A.R.* ("Armed robbers hit the Castro") bandits have robbed individuals and businesses with increasing frequency since the beginning of May. Brown's announcement came just two days after another armed robbery occurred in the Castro near the corner of Market and Sanchez streets. (See "Crime and Punishment," page 12.)

Additional help in curbing the worsening crime may come from the San Francisco Patrol Special Police of the Castro, which is now forming a volunteer neighborhood patrol.

"Due to the unusually high amount of robberies in the neighborhood over the past month," Officer Jane Warner

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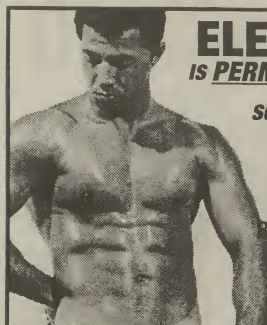
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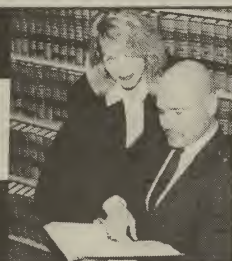
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Sunshine initiative is launched

by Cynthia Laird

San Franciscans for Sunshine (SFS), a coalition of civic leaders, advocates, and community organizations, has launched a citywide drive to collect voter signatures to place an open-government initiative on the November ballot. The group announced the latest phase of its effort on the steps of City Hall last Wednesday, May 5.

According to the Department of Elections, sunshine advocates must submit approximately 10,500 valid signatures by July 2 to qualify the initiative for the ballot.

Called the Access to Public Meetings and Records Initiative Ordinance, the measure proposes a series of reforms to strengthen the current body of meetings and records provisions, called the Sunshine Ordinance, which was enacted by the city in 1993.

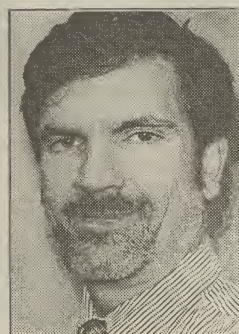
A broad coalition of people have been working on the measure for the past several months. Stephen LeBlanc, who's openly gay and a member of ACT UP/Golden Gate, helped write much of the initiative. Gay activists Byron McQuarters, Jeff Sheehy, and Howard Wallace have

also been involved with the proposed ballot measure, as well as the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club. Others who support the effort include Angela Alioto, former president of the Board of Supervisors, current board President Tom Ammiano and Supervisor Leland Yee.

Key areas the initiative addresses include:

- Effective enforcement. The measure will provide for a meaningful appeal process and penalties designed to dissuade Sunshine Ordinance violations.
- Online information. The measure will require the city to keep specified information, such as meeting agendas and minutes, up to date on its website.

LeBlanc said the AIDS and gay communities should support the initiative. AIDS activists were instrumental in the recent "sunshine" ordinance governing non-profit organizations that receive city contracts, and that experience prompted LeBlanc to get involved in this effort. He pointed to recent news that \$17 million in Los Angeles AIDS housing money has gone unspent as an indicator of why the new law is needed. "The gay community and AIDS community have successfully won re-



Stephen LeBlanc

sources," LeBlanc told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "What we haven't won is a mechanism so that the person who controls the purse strings is accountable."

While LeBlanc said the proposed initiative is long and complex, he said SFS is trying to help city residents. "I think we've tried to give citizens a much clearer picture of their rights to access public records," he said. ▼

For more info, to make a donation, or to volunteer to gather signatures, call (415) 386-4934 or write SFS, P.O. Box 2273, San Francisco, CA 94126. The proposed initiative can be read online at www.sfbg.com/sunshine/main.html.

MCC meeting Mon. to discuss HIV council

by Cynthia Laird

Activists and others interested in San Francisco's HIV health services are encouraged to attend a community meeting this Monday, May 17 at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. ACT UP Golden Gate and the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club called the meeting in the wake of last month's decision by Mayor Willie Brown to remove one outspoken member from the HIV Health Services Planning Council and leave another member uncertain about his future on the planning body.

The HIV Health Services Planning Council prioritizes and allocates the \$37 million in federal Ryan White CARE Act funds that

San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties receive. Although the planning council was established by federal legislation, some in the mayor's office have apparently tried to lump it in with other city boards and commissions; that is expected to come up at Monday's meeting.

At its April 26 meeting, councilmembers grilled mayoral aides Steve Kawa and Bill Barnes over the decision not to reappoint member Loras Ojeda. Co-chair Tom Calvanese was also not reappointed, although a subsequent letter from Kawa stated Calvanese could remain on the council.

During discussion at last month's meeting, the council agreed to the community meeting so that residents can debate the future of the council and the roles of the mayor's office and the Depart-

ment of Public Health's AIDS Office in the federally-mandated body.

Last month Calvanese told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his vote last year concerning mental health services funding prompted the mayor's initial decision to remove him. "It's based on that mental health vote," Calvanese said, adding that everyone who voted against the proposal favored by the mayor has either resigned, been kicked off, or died, with the exception of Co-chair Diane Jones. "Loras [Ojeda] and I were the last ones," Calvanese said. ▼

The May 17 meeting takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street. For more information, call Matthew Sharp at ACT UP/Golden Gate at (415) 252-9200.

Workshop Saturday

Wanted: Pride float builders

by Cynthia Laird

It's fun, it's free, it helps build community, and it's coming to San Francisco's Pier 26 this Saturday, May 15. The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Pride Celebration Committee will hold its second float building workshop, and organizers hope LGBT groups come down, sign up for a space, and start working on creative floats for this year's Pride Parade.

"We have 17 spots and only three organizations have sent in applications," Jason Wyman, an outreach worker for the pride

committee, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We're really looking for people."

Teddy Witherington, now in his second year as executive director of the pride committee, has pushed for the float building workshops as a way to generate community interest and creativity in the parade. The workshops and space at Pier 26 are free and are available to organizations and businesses that want to create a float for the parade. Future float workshops are scheduled for June 5 and 19, Wyman said.

This year's pride festivities start Saturday, June 26 and continue with the Pride Parade Sunday, June 27. San Francisco tradi-

tionally has one of the largest pride parades in the world, with hundreds of thousands of people expected to line Market Street for the event. This year's theme is "Proud Heritage, Powerful Future." Harry Hay, 87, one of the founders of the modern gay and lesbian movement, was elected grand marshal of this year's parade in community balloting last month. ▼

The May 15 workshop starts at 11 a.m. Pier 26 is located at the Embarcadero and Harrison Street. For more information, call Jason Wyman at (415) 677-7960.

SF AIDS Candlelight Vigil Sunday

Renters to sing; 'lost' PWA banner returns

by Mark Norby

The AIDS pandemic has taken the lives of nearly 18,000 San Franciscans, the highest per-capita AIDS death rate of any city in the world. This Sunday, May 16 at 8 p.m. starting at the corner of Market and Castro streets, the annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil will bring together thousands to honor those lost to AIDS, the 25,000 San Franciscans still living with HIV and AIDS, and those committed in the fight to end the disease.

This year's AIDS hero honorees will carry the original vigil banner "Fighting for our lives," which became the motto of the people with AIDS (PWA) empowerment movement. The banner was used in the first march held in 1983, and was lost for several years, but was found recently in a basement archive.

"It's an historic symbol that has been used in marches and vigils all around the globe," Michael Lauro, chief organizer of the vigil, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Sister Kitty [Catalyst of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence] found it not too long ago and we're really excited to have this piece of history come back to us."

Dozens of groups from local churches, schools, businesses, teams, organizations, and persons affected by AIDS will lead the vigil procession from the Castro to City Hall. There, a program of music, performance art, and remembrance ceremonies will take place, as well as several performances by the cast of the Broadway musical *Rent*.

"Practically the entire cast of *Rent* will perform," says Lauro. "*Rent*'s cast is a total of 31 performers, and 30 of them have confirmed. We're incredibly excited about this. They'll perform their hit number 'Seasons of Love' and other hits from the show."

The AIDS Candlelight Vigil is held in over 400 cities and townships around the world. The San Francisco vigil is presented by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/Golden Gate (ACT UP/Golden Gate), and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. A trolley car will be available for those unable to walk the distance of the procession. ▼

To request a memorial name card or to volunteer, contact ACT UP/Golden Gate at (415) 252-9266.

Corrections:

The story "Catholics deal with 'gay issue' at Santa Clara University" in the April 29 *B.A.R.* incorrectly identified "the first college in California." That distinction belongs to "El Colegio de San Jose," which was founded in 1833. Santa Clara University is the oldest surviving California college.

The photo on page two of last week's *B.A.R.* was of the Mayor's Leadership Forum, not AIDS Summit Update.

Also, the photo on page 13 of last week's issue misidentified Alex Villa. Our apologies for all the confusion. ▼



Join the cast: Sisters and ACT UP/Golden Gaters (pictured with their historic banner), will lead the AIDS Candlelight procession on May 16. At the vigil, 30 *Rent* cast members will perform their show's signature song, "Seasons of Love."

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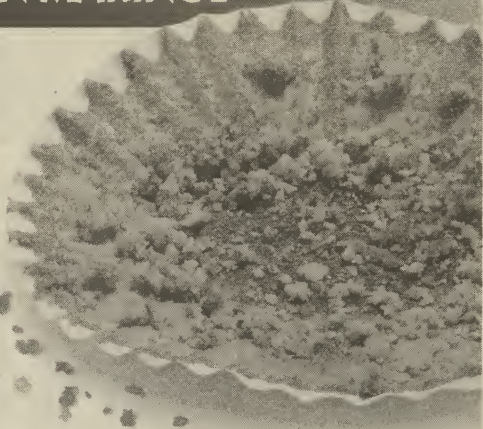
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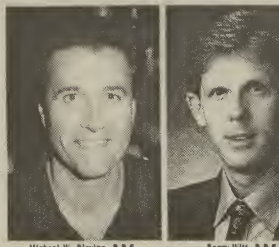
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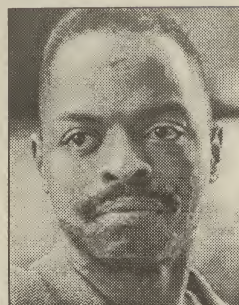
by Cynthia Laird

In an effort to reach out to various groups within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community, the LGBT Community Center Project's (CCP) program committee will take public input to help ensure that the all are welcomed and made part of the center at a special meeting Thursday, May 20. Interested community members are welcome to attend.

Byron McQuarters, a member of the program committee and a

prospective CCP board member, urged the group hold the meeting. The program committee is charged with selecting and designing the preliminary layout for space usage in the center, and putting together center plans. McQuarters told the *Bay Area Reporter* that while the CCP board has done a lot of outreach over the past couple of years, a critical phase of the project has arrived as groundbreaking is slated for this fall.

The community center will be located at Market and Octavia streets; the \$10.7 million, 40,000 square foot project will incorpo-



Jane Philborn Coleland

Byron McQuarters

rate the historic Fallon Building in its design. It is expected to open in January 2001.

"In fairness, the CCP has made lots of outreach to various sub-communities of the [LGBT] community by having surveys, focus groups and talks with community leaders," McQuarters told the *B.A.R.* "To me and others, we need to have more pointed discussions on how the community center can be a true community center; how we make the word 'community' come alive and make sure the project doesn't become the club of a select few."

In particular, McQuarters is hoping people of color, women, transgenders, people living with HIV/AIDS, and leather folk show up at the meeting. Men of All Colors Together is one group that plans to have a presence at the session, he added.

McQuarters believes now is the time to have such a discussion, because the program committee is going over building specifications and other planning in preparation for the fall groundbreaking. While acknowledging prior outreach efforts made by the CCP, McQuarters also thinks previous meetings weren't as well attended in part because completion of the project was so far in the future. "It was too abstract for people," he said. "It's crucial now."

Dana Van Gorder, a CCP board member who chairs the planning committee, said the purpose of the meeting is for community members and groups to come and once again express their desires for the center. Van Gorder said he will be reporting back to the board on what input is received at the meeting.

McQuarters hopes the meeting will touch on all aspects of the project, including employment and hiring, access to facilities, room art displays, and historical depictions.

About 10 years ago when McQuarters came to San Francisco, he and his friend, both African-American, attended a political meeting. Many of the people in the room were white men. "That happens over and over," he said, adding he doesn't want it to happen at the community center. On the flip side, McQuarters said community members have a responsibility to tell CCP board and committee members what they want in the center.

"I don't know when we'll have another opportunity," he said. ▽

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. at the CCP office, 1748 Market Street, Suite 204.

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CONTRAINDICATIONS

Marinol (dronabinol) is contraindicated in any patient who has a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or sesame oil.

WARNINGS

Marinol (dronabinol) is a medication with a potential for abuse. Physicians and pharmacists should use the same care in prescribing and accounting for Marinol as they would with morphine or other drugs controlled under Schedule II (CII) of the Controlled Substances Act. Because of the risk of diversion, it is recommended that prescriptions be limited to the amount necessary for the period between clinic visits.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypertension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution and careful psychiatric monitoring in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients receiving concomitant therapy with sedatives, hypnotics or other psychoactive drugs because of the potential for additive or synergistic CNS effects.

Patients should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more sensitive to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

Information for Patients: Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system depression if Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid such manifestations. Patients should remain under the supervision of a responsible adult during initial use of Marinol and following dosage adjustments.

Drug Interactions: In studies involving patients with AIDS and cancer, Marinol (dronabinol) has been co-administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-infective agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug interactions. Although no drug-drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through both metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed in vivo, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering dronabinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table:

CONCOMITANT DRUG	CLINICAL EFFECT(S)
Amphetamines, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents	Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity
Atropine, scopolamine, anticholinergics, other anticholinergic agents	Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness
Amtripyline, amoxapine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants	Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness
Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, buspirone, anticholinergics, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants	Additive drowsiness and CNS depression
Disulfiram	A reversible hypotensive reaction was reported in a 28 y/o man who smoked marijuana, confirmed by dechallenge and rechallenge
Fluoxetine	A 21 y/o female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine 4 weeks became hypotensive after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days
Antipyrene, barbiturates	Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism
Theophylline	Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m² (equivalent to 0.2 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD)) of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m² in AIDS patients, reduced ventral prostate, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testes were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m², equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 1 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m² in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 295 mg/m² (equivalent to 0.8 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m² in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experience information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 67 receiving placebo. Studies of different durations were combined by considering the first occurrence of events during the first 28 days. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 68 receiving placebo.

A cannabinoid dose-related "high" (easy laughing, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (8%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 35% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients reported a minor CNS adverse event during the first 2 weeks and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

Body as a whole: Asthenia.

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush.

Digestive: Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting.

Nervous system: (Anxiety), anxiety/nervousness, (ataxia), confusion, depersonalization, dizziness, euphoria, (hallucination), paranoid reaction, "surrendering", "thinking abnormal".

* Incidence of events 3% to 10%.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317).

Cardiovascular: Conjunctivitis, hypertension.

Digestive: Diarrhea, local inflammation.

Musculoskeletal: Myalgias.

Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, tinnitus.

Skin and Appendages: Flushing.

Special senses: Vision difficulties.

* Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%.

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.

The clinical significance of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as adverse information for the clinician.

Body as a whole: Chills, headache, malaise.

Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.

Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.

Skin and Appendages: Sweating.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is abuseable and controlled Schedule II (CII) under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen after prolonged high dose administration.

Chronic abuse of cannabis has been associated with decrements in motivation, cognition, judgment, and perception. The etiology of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction rather than an isolated effect of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to five months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social functioning were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

An abstinence syndrome has been reported after abrupt discontinuation of dronabinol in volunteers receiving dosages of 210 mg/day for 12 to 16 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-dronabinol discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes", sweating, rhinorrhea, loose stools, hiccups and anorexia.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually dissipated over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hyperventilation) were recorded in patients after abrupt discontinuation. Patients also complained of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuing therapy with high dosages of dronabinol.

OVERDOSE

Signs and symptoms following MILD Marinol (dronabinol) intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered time perception, delirium, conjunctive, dry mouth and tachycardia; following MODERATE intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility; and following SEVERE intoxication include decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and postural hypotension. Aggravative reactions may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing seizure disorders.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 30 mg/kg (2100 mg/70kg). Significant CNS symptoms in anesthetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (28 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

Management: A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, instill activated charcoal (30 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam po) may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypertensive individuals respond to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Appetite stimulation: Initially, 2.5 mg Marinol (dronabinol) should be administered orally twice daily (b.i.d.), before lunch and supper. For patients unable to tolerate this 5 mg/day dosage of Marinol, the dosage can be reduced to 2.5 mg/day, administered as a single dose in the evening or at bedtime. It clinically indicated and in the absence of significant adverse effects, the dosage may be gradually increased to a maximum of 20 mg/day Marinol, administered in divided oral doses. Caution should be exercised in escalating the dosage of Marinol because of the increased frequency of dose-related adverse experiences at higher dosages (see PRECAUTIONS).

Antiemetic: Marinol is best administered at an initial dose of 5 mg/m², given 1 to 3 hours prior to the administration of chemotherapy, then every 2 to 4 hours after chemotherapy is given, for a total of 4 to 6 doses/day. Should the 5 mg/m² dose prove to be ineffective, and in the absence of significant side effects, the dose may be escalated by 2.5 mg/m² increments to a maximum of 15 mg/m² per dose. Caution should be exercised in dose escalation, however, as the incidence of disturbing psychiatric symptoms increases significantly at maximum dose (see PRECAUTIONS).

SAFETY AND HANDLING

Marinol (dronabinol) should be packaged in a well-closed container and stored in a cool environment between 8° and 15° (46° and 59°). Protect from freezing. No particular hazard to health care workers handling the capsules has been identified.

Access to abusable drugs such as Marinol presents an occupational hazard for addition in the health care industry. Routine procedures for handling controlled substances developed to protect the public may not be adequate to protect health care workers. Implementation of more effective accounting procedures and measures to appropriately restrict access to drugs of this class may minimize the risk of self-administration by health care providers.

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Health Watch meets with Mayor Brown on bathhouses

by Liz Highleyman

Early in the morning of Saturday, May 8, two members of the newly-formed group Health Watch met with San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown to discuss the city's policy on sex clubs and bathhouses. The meeting was scheduled for 7:30 a.m. as part of Brown's monthly constituent "open houses." Department of Public Health (DPH) Director Dr. Mitch Katz and Bill Barnes, Brown's advisor on AIDS and HIV policy, also attended the meeting.

Health Watch opposes the city's current sex club regulations that ban closed private spaces and require that club staff monitor patrons' behavior. The group contends that no scientific evidence has been presented to show that privacy in sex clubs or bathhouses contributes to the transmission of HIV. San Francisco's regulations are unique in the U.S., and cities such as San Jose and Berkeley allow bathhouses with private rooms.

David Attiah of Health Watch, who previously taught health policy at Harvard University, emphasized that the group "advocates sound sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention policy," and believes that the current sex club regulations undermine prevention. He asserted that "the consensus - proven by 15 years of effective AIDS outreach and prevention - is that empowerment models work. ... Protecting privacy - not denying it - is absolutely essential to these strategies." He continued, "Closing bathhouses does not eliminate HIV transmissions. It relocates these transmis-



Health Watch members Steve Filandrinos and David Attiah speak about the Health Department's sex club monitoring guidelines with Mayor Willie Brown during his monthly citizen open house.

sions to places where education, STD information, and condoms are not available." According to Health Watch member Steve Filandrinos, "Gay men, not government, have consistently spearheaded safer sex efforts. These efforts focus on empowering gay men to make healthy sexual choices. ... Katz's position is retrograde health policy."

Health Watch wants the DPH to publish its rationale for the regulations and to back them up with scientific data. In addition, the group asked Brown to call upon the Health Commission to review the regulations, which have never been formally approved by the commission.

Time to rethink?

Bathhouse privacy advocates have made little headway in over two years of airing their grievances before Katz and Dr. Sandra Hernandez, the previous DPH director. Katz has made it clear that he believes that monitoring and the prohibition of closed spaces does discourage HIV transmis-

sion, and has indicated that he has no plans to change the city's policy.

Rather than addressing the substance of the issue, Brown emphasized that he relies upon his expert advisors - primarily Katz and the Health Commission - to recommend health policy for the city, and that he is not inclined to overrule them "in defiance of their wisdom." He said, "When I can no longer feel confident in Katz's advice, Katz will be advising someone else." Brown noted that in a democracy there are

page 23 ►

Open house at PAWS

by Cynthia Laird

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) has moved to a more spacious home in the Mission District, and supporters of the agency are invited to an open house at the new digs this Wednesday, May 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. PAWS, now located at 3248 16th Street between Douglas and Guerrero streets, has offered comprehensive services to low income people and their pets in the city for 12 years.

John Dwyer, outreach coordinator, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that PAWS is now centrally located between the Mission and the Castro districts, where most of the agency's clients reside. "It will be much more accessible to many of our clients," he said.

Before the March move, PAWS had been located on Market Street in a small storefront. That move was primarily temporary, Dwyer said, so that the agency could save money while having a low month-to-month lease. That arrangement ended earlier this year. The new locale is "a larger space but still very reasonable rent," Dwyer said.

People who attend this week's

open house can also pick up registration and pledge forms for PAWS' fourth annual Doggone Fun Run, slated for Sunday, June 13 at Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park. The 5k loop fun run and walk is one of the agency's main fundraisers. Proceeds will help support the animal food bank, veterinary care for pets of PAWS clients, and education materials for teaching people about the benefits and risks of animal companionship for those living with compromised immune systems.

Other services provided by PAWS include animal grooming, dog walking, in-home cat care, foster care, and adoption. Many of the services are provided by PAWS volunteers and those, too are needed. Once a month, the agency has an orientation for prospective volunteers, and those who are interested are welcome to stop by to find out more about helping PAWS clients. ▼

For more information about the fun run or becoming a PAWS client, call (415) 241-1460, e-mail pawssf@dnai.com, or check out the website pawssf@dnai.org.

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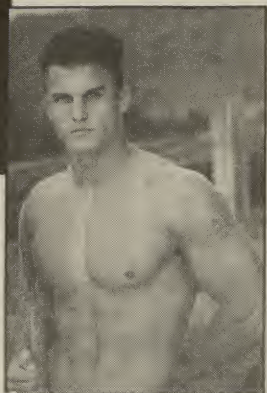


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OPEN FORUM

Self-determination, at any rate

We can hardly believe it, but it's true: the epidemic is slowing down in some significant ways in San Francisco. Not in all ways, surely, and not nearly enough in the new infection areas, but there is evident progress. The numbers of people with HIV who make the change to people with AIDS (or, as it's frequently called at that moment, "full-blown AIDS") are dropping every year.

Speaking on behalf of anyone with half-blown AIDS, that is really good news.

Some people may think it's bordering on irresponsibility for us to bring the statistics to the attention of the community; some have already suggested that everyone would be better served by letting people continue to believe the epidemic rages on unabated. We disagree.

Ignorance is not bliss. It's simply ignorant, at a time when knowledge is power.

The fear, for some, is that gay men will read more (or less) into the statistics than they should, but we have to follow Harry Truman's dictum: "Trust the people." They'll know what to do. Certainly the gay population of San Francisco knows how to distinguish a cure from a statistical downturn; surely our readers realize that this particular bit of good news does not eliminate the need to avail themselves of safer sex practices and other hard-earned lessons from the past two decades.

But dammit, after fighting what has seemed like a hopeless battle it is important to recognize when there is reason for hope. Like an unexpected sunny day, it may not last forever but it is welcome proof that winter doesn't last forever.

Almost nothing lasts forever, in fact. Although it seems that the San Francisco bathhouse ban might. And after thinking about it for a very long time, we think that makes a very bad statement.

The argument against bathhouses is based upon the unexplored hypothesis that gay men will have more unsafe sex if there are more places to have sex in private. The fact that the hypothesis remains unexamined is troubling, but no worse than we've come to expect by now, since it is obvious federally-funded researchers won't pursue any line of questioning that might in any way give the go-ahead to anything like gay sex (which is why vital research on HIV re-infection remains similarly unexamined).

More troubling than the lack of scientific inquiry, however, is the underlying assumption that our community — meaning you and your friends — can't be trusted.

Everyone knows it's wrong for the Boy Scouts to suggest that gay men "can't be trusted" around youths — we rightly point out that pedophilia is not related to homosexuality. Nor will the community allow bigots to suggest we can't be trusted as parents, teachers, or servicemembers in the military's show-ers. In every instance, we have fought to define ourselves as something better than the sexual compulsive, self-destructive, destructive slime that others have tried to say we are.

Why should this battle over the baths be any different? Unfortunately, despite the sexual revolution, this generation of gay people is (mostly) as unwilling to discuss sex as their parents. We don't like to have to justify ... ahem ... those things we do; so we don't, if we can avoid it. But this issue should be talked

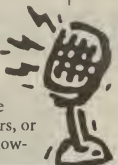
about, and any efforts to portray us as brainless animals must be resisted, even when they come from an openly gay official like Health Director Mitch Katz. We humbly suggest he doesn't know what he's talking about.

After the shooting at Columbine High School, gun maven Charlton Heston suggested that the problem of kids smuggling guns into schools under trench coats could be solved by instituting a total ban. Not on guns, but on trench coats. Well, yes, that might do it, but perhaps just to be

safe we should make them all come to class in form-fitting swimwear, so any hidden weapons would be instantly obvious. If that works, the next step is to make sure that the kids didn't do anything icky after graduation, by fitting them all with chastity belts for the rest of their lives.

Sure, it's silly, but it's a logical extension of the ban on bathhouses.

Mitch Katz and Charlton Heston: an odd couple, but perhaps more alike than we imagined. ▼



Editorial



An open letter to Tom

by Jerry D. Threet

Dear Tom, I would like to thank you for being a leader of integrity, who believes in democratic and progressive ideals and works hard to realize those ideals in government. I know of no other city official who can claim such a record of demonstrated leadership. You have sought limits on ATM fee double-charging by banks, supported Muni reform, sponsored Sunshine legislation to open city-funded nonprofits to citizen review, and supported crucial protections for tenants. You now are sponsoring legislation to give San Francisco workers a wage that will allow us to afford to live in the city where we work. I am grateful that we have you in a leadership position as president of the Board of Supervisors.

Unfortunately, I am convinced that as long as Willie Brown remains mayor, all of your efforts to help ordinary citizens will be frustrated by Brown's opposition. It is for this reason that I now urge you for the sake of our city to announce your candidacy for mayor. I firmly believe that you would be the kind of mayor San Francisco needs to pull together the various democratic, neighborhood, and progressive organizations into a coalition that will make our city work for ordinary citizens. I despair at the prospect of four more years of Brown's machine politics and blatant patronage serving the interests of the downtown establishment. Having experienced Brown's tactics firsthand, you know better than I that no truly progressive

legislation has a chance of enactment so long as Brown is in office and provides political cover for his appointees on the board. The people of this city should not have to continually resort to the initiative process to enact measures blocked by their so-called representatives. I know that this depressing situation will only get worse if Willie Brown is re-elected, and becomes a completely unaccountable lame-duck mayor. We cannot afford four more years of the Brown machine ruining all that makes our city special.

Moreover, although he is a Democrat, Mayor Brown is no democrat. He is an autocratic bully. Brown demands "rubber stamp" loyalty and crushes those who will not give it to him. Only recently, Brown sought to purge the HIV Health Services Planning Council of Tom Calvanese, whose offense was that he voted in the interests of people living with AIDS rather than simply following the marching orders of the mayor. In the same week, Brown had his Department of Public Health director eliminate Bob Prentice, one of the city's most qualified health policymakers, for having similar independence of mind. If Brown is willing to punish independent members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) community while he is seeking re-election, what can we expect if he is re-elected? It is for this reason that Harvey Milk cautioned that we should never rely on someone else to represent us when we can elect an authentic

leader from our own community. The difference between the existing Mayor Brown and a future Mayor Ammiano will be the difference between tokenism and empowerment for our community.

Four weeks ago, I began organizing "Run Tom Run!" a campaign urging you to run for mayor. Together with others, I have printed "Run Tom Run" buttons and gathered petition signatures from those who want you to be our next mayor. I am excited by the incredible support for your potential candidacy and by the passion of those who want you to run. I am also shocked by the fear of those who favor your candidacy but would not sign a petition because of retaliation from the Brown machine.

So many people are tired, but would not sign a petition because of retaliation from the Brown machine. So many people are tired, but would not sign a petition because of retaliation from the Brown machine.

as am I, of voting in elections for the "lesser evil." We want the opportunity to vote for a candidate in whom we believe. That candidate is Tom Ammiano.

I hope that you will accept the invitation of the people of San Francisco, and announce your candidacy for Mayor of San Francisco. Once you do, the hard work can begin to get you elected. Let it begin, won't you? ▼

If you believe Tom Ammiano should run for mayor, please contact his office to let him know how you feel. The telephone number is (415) 554-5144; e-mail is SupAmmiano@aol.com. "Run Tom Run" can be reached at (415) 255-8095 or e-mail astarte@pacbell.net.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Silent isn't the same as mute

The last time I checked, 'twas the year 1999 and culturally sensitive terms were used to appropriately distinguish various people and races. That is why I was disappointed to see the term "deaf and mute" used in the B.A.R. [*Crime and Punishment*, May 6.]

This term was used in the 1800s and early 1900s to identify deaf people who couldn't hear and talk and who were considered second-class citizens. At that time, only "talking" persons were considered as having the ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings. Today, deaf persons, through a variety of means, including American Sign Language, can communicate and thus, are not mute. Times have changed – and we as deaf people are proud to use the term "deaf" to denote our rich heritage and culture. Just as we in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community ask that people call us as such, we in the deaf community wish the same.

Jim Brune, Outreach Specialist
Deaf Gay & Lesbian Center
San Francisco

[Editor's note: We apologize to anyone we offended.]

Movement to the right

I must say I am very impressed with Dale Carpenter's column "Out Right." I hope it is starting to let good people know there is another view out here and that we only have good intentions for all. Know that we can all work together for a better society and all lifestyles. Time to stop throwing rocks at each other, and start holding hands for a change.

I've been looking for a gay conservative movement for a long time, and would appreciate someone contacting me at Hugh-Carr@aol.com.

Ralph H. Carreira
Oakland, CA

Pilloried to post

Two (very) minor points regarding last week's B.A.R. First, in a city like San Francisco, with so many people offering licensed counseling and therapy, I can't believe that members of the "Poster Patrol," particularly Glenn Allen McKeever [*Mailstrom*] and Rick Thurber, can't find help. We must find some way to have pity for these men who, for lack of more meaning in their lives, are driven to center their existence around pieces of paper on phone poles. Compassion is the only word that comes to mind. Let's all pity these bored and idle men. And if you see one of them on the street, perhaps you could recommend a good therapist, or suggest some agency where they could volunteer all this bitter energy. Hmm. Maybe not.

And speaking of bitter energy, not to mention misplaced bitter energy, I see Messrs. Pasquarelli and Petrelis have moved on to their next rabid cause, which they're calling "Community United for Sexual Privacy." Isn't that an oxymoron? How can you unite a community and expect to have privacy? It shows such a lack of imagination, really. If you want sexual privacy, darlings, pull the shades. Unless, of course, the baths is the only place members of this particular group can find sex. Talk about giving activism a bad name. These two do it single-handedly. In fact, they've turned me against some of my favorite causes. Ever notice the groups they belong to never have more than half-dozen members? That sounds rather private.

Sophie K. Padgett
San Francisco

Sodomy causes inflammation

Isn't there anyone among us who can present the cause for reopening bathhouses, which has many legitimate points in its favor, without using the inflammatory "consensual sodomy" argument? This defiant, self-serving word phraseology dooms the issue to failure among many straights and gays alike before its even off the ground. The media sensationalizes it, the medical community shudders, straights demonize it and use it to their advantage, and who knows what PWAs and surviving partners and family members think? The community at large is not well served, even though the central issue may have merit.

Tom Bente
San Francisco

Baths heaven scent?

Screaming about possible baths opening again! The one in Berkeley has days when you wait hours to get in. I am surprised the baths in San Jose don't ask you to check your dickie at the door! It costs an arm and a leg to get in.

The secret word is "baths" – soap, showers, water – and maybe a 1/2 ounce of Old Spice – certainly a lot cleaner than where some are doing it now.

Chuck Kennedy
San Francisco

The Guide formerly known as print

I have learned that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) does not plan to print an updated version of its HIV Resource Guide. The reason given to me over the phone by an employee in the Client Services Department was that there were too many changes for them to keep it appropriately updated. Rather, the guide is now online through the SF Public Library. As I later learned when I tried to use it, getting information from it quickly is not easy; it is not a very user-friendly system. The decision not to reprint is regrettable.

I am an HIV social worker at San Francisco General Hospital's outpatient HIV clinic, and I have always found the guide a useful resource that is quick and easy to use. However, because the new online system is not in a book format nor is there any table of contents or index, it is not even useful to print it out as an office reference. I find more and more patients asking me what services the SFAF offers these days; now that they have eliminated the printed guide, the list of those services shortens once again.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the SFAF so they will have my reasons for regretting their decision. These include:

- Poor and homeless HIV-positive people need to have ready knowledge of the services available; my guess is their access to the Internet is limited.

- People who are newly diagnosed or newly arrived in San Francisco are going to want to be able to learn quickly what services are available; I would prefer to be able to provide them with a printed guide.

- I haven't found it inconvenient in the past to write in the old guide any new addresses or phone numbers for agencies as I discover them; I wonder how frequently the database will be updated.

- For me time is precious, and booting up a computer to search through a layered database (even assuming one has online access) is far clumsier than thumbing through a book.

I now urge service providers and their clients/patients to write or call the AIDS foundation and express your reason(s) why you think an updated print version of the guide is needed.

Bob Lehr, MSW
San Francisco

No intrastate competition

I'd like to thank you for the prominent coverage of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society's gala fundraiser, our first Art and Award Affair, which was held May 1 at the Yerba Buena Center [*"The Art of history," April 29*]. More than 200 people attended a remarkable performance by the Joe Goode troupe, and tens of thousands of dollars of donated art were given away to several lucky ticket-holders. I'm sure your coverage contributed to the success of the event.

I do however, wish to correct a misleading impression I feel was created by words attributed to me by your reporter. I was trying to make the point in my interview that different queer archives have different strengths, and that while the International Lesbian and Gay Archives in Los Angeles has more cubic feet of material than we do at GLHS, that we have processed our collections (i.e., preserved, organized, cataloged, and prepared guides for them) more extensively than they have. I intended this as a relative and comparative statement, not one suggesting that we were a "good archive" and they were a "bad archive." The world of LGBT archives is quite small, we all know one another, and we all tend to work collaboratively with one another from time to time. I regret that the article created an impression of rivalry, competition, or "one-upsmanship" between GLHS and ILGA. I'd appreciate it if you could run this letter to lay to rest any suggestion to the contrary.

Susan Stryker
Executive Director,
Gay and Lesbian Historical
Society of Northern California
San Francisco

How to miss the Dyke March

The indelible stencil on the Castro sidewalk still says "Dyke March/Sat., June 27/5:30 p.m./Dolores Park." So let's go there, to participate or to applaud, on June 27?

Not. The message, still quite legible, was painted in some previous year. Anyone heeding it will miss this year's Dyke March.

So I ask organizers to think ahead. If you're going to make a permanent mark, then make a permanent announcement, valid from year to year. Like, "Dyke March/Sat. before Prude Sunday...." (That's *Prude*, not *Pride*, because of the police department's genderist policy against female areolas.)

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PWA wants more home-runs from Giants games

[The following was sent to Michael Burns, Director of Muni, San Francisco.]

I have complained about the service of the buses going out to Candlestick Park but to no avail. I am trying to get out of the house, which is important for me, going to the game. There should be some provision for those of us who are ill with various diseases (I am a PWA) who go out to the park and are stuck there. If it is too cold out there, we've got to stay. If it is rainy, we've got to stay until the last ball is pitched in the last inning (sometimes not taking into account games that go into extra innings).

We are encouraged to take Muni to the ballgame but how do we get home if we become ill, tired, bored, hungry, forget our medication at home, etc.?

My solution is a simple one. Have two buses going back to the city sometime during the course of the game or at least going to a convenient and safe location where can catch another city bus. I would suggest at the end of the 4th and 7th innings.

Yes, I know that next year I will be able to walk to the park but I am dealing with this season.

Bernard D. Pechter
San Francisco

Protecting us from ourselves

Anybody else getting tired of the weekly braying of the No-Smoke Police as they fire off their indignant snits about the Smoke on Polk? Joe C. and James N., without whom all bars would close, seem to have a weekly column in the B.A.R. about their bad wigs and angora sweaters smelling of smoke.

Wonder where they were with their indignation as gay San Francisco was infecting itself with drug addiction and HIV and hepatitis A, B, and C, syphilis, the clap, and sick relationships. Were they out blowing whistles when they saw or heard of drug activity or fresh raw sex in the backrooms of bars, bathhouses, and local theater balconies?

Do they now visit sex clubs to ensure we're all living a healthy lifestyle? Do they blow their rape whistles when they see sex and drug trade in and out of their oh so precious Polk Street bars? Why aren't they protecting us from ourselves by running out screaming to the foot patrols that people are breaking the law in the bars instead of screeching in their letters to the editor.

The law was written to protect the bartenders from them, not the other way around. If the bartender is smoking, why do these kweens give a shit? Reminds me of the same screechers that ran back to L.A. and reported beer busts in SF (probably after the bartender didn't let them suck his dick). Sneaky, sad, lonely, mean-spirited people who've seen "the light" would love to stir up such a controversy that people are fined or fired, and perhaps even lose their businesses because the powerless need a little power.

I can imagine the above mentioned persons carrying their cell phones from bar to bar to report on, and turn their neighbors in for, unhealthy practices from cheap after-shave, to smoking, to gambling with dice, to buying a hustler a beer (known as soliciting). And in the meantime, the bars will empty from boredom and Joe C. and James N. and all the other sad kweens will have to drink twice as much just to keep their little, empty, boring bars open. And they will be very proud of themselves and the sheep with whom they drink. Nobody ever died from going to a smoke-free AA meeting, Agnes. Hit the road.

Mick Stevens
San Francisco

Stroking Katz

Wayne Friday very graciously recognized in his column last week the success of our city's queer youth assistance program at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center. Since March 15, we have been providing shelter and access to services to 30 neighborhood young adults. MCC has lovingly served an evening and morning meal for our guests each day. The neighbors and merchants have offered us their patience and support as we have proceeded with the project. The Ark of Refuge has executed its contract to produce the program with great skill and concern. This remarkable collaboration has delivered exceptional results.

The inception of this effort is to be credited to Supervisor Leslie Katz. It was her clarity of vision and leadership which conceived of the format and funding. The weight of President Ammann's office helped move the project forward and I have enjoyed monitoring its ongoing progress. But if not for Supervisor Katz's early intervention, we may not have arrived at this successful place. It should also be noted that her staffer, Laura Spanjian, has been invaluable in her daily attention to and presence in the program.

When we engage our collective minds and hearts, there is little that we cannot accomplish. My thanks to all.

Mark Leno
Member, Board of Supervisors
San Francisco

A note on Hardesty

Your response to Michael P. Hardesty's latest diatribe in the May 6 Mailstrom ["Klaas clown"] did a good job of rebutting his intemperate ranting. (Although I do have one objection to what you said, which I'll get to in a minute.) However, as a diehard opponent of the death penalty who objects to Hardesty giving my side a bad name, I'd like to add my two cents.

Some may recall that my letter responding to a similarly over-the-top advocate of capital punishment appeared next to Hardesty's letter responding to same. In my letter, I called for the queer community to have "an intelligent discussion instead of a shouting match" about the issue. But any smugness I may have had about the moral superiority of my side was certainly deflated by reading Hardesty's original letter, which used the topic as an excuse for a personal attack on Marc Klaas. He reminded me that there are jerks on my side of the issue, too.

And his latest letter is just too much. The notion that Marc Klaas is not a victim — oh, excuse me, "is not a victim" — is absolutely ridiculous. Certainly, his victimization is not as horrible as his poor daughter's was, which I'm sure he'd be the first to assert. However, it is ongoing pain of a sort that I cannot imagine. I can certainly understand why he supports the death penalty; indeed, I can only hope that I would be able to hold my anti-capital punishment convictions if one of my loved ones was brutally murdered.

Of course, Klaas is not "above criticism," but it's wrong to use important questions of law and justice as an excuse to exercise a personal grudge against the man. Also, in response to Hardesty's blaming him for the current "three strikes" law, I feel compelled to point out that Klaas, unlike other victims' rights advocates, spoke out against the ridiculous feature of the current California law that allows the third strike to be a nonviolent felony, such as (to use the notorious example) stealing a piece of pizza.

As for Hardesty's assertion that he's "superior, morally and intellectually" to the "scummy savages" who support the death penalty, I just want to assure everyone out there that not all death penalty opponents believe this asinine crap. Indeed, I resent Hardesty's reliance on ad hominem attacks, for any rational person knows that such attacks are usually a sure sign that the person using them has no actual facts to base his or her argument on. I submit that there are valid arguments on both sides of this issue, and just because I strongly believe that the death penalty is wrong doesn't mean I feel that those who disagree with me are "scummy." That's just childish.

In closing, I would like to take issue with your assertion that Hardesty "empathizes" with anti-gay killers. In your understandable desire to rebut Hardesty's foolishness, you unfortunately reinforce the untrue stereotype that death penalty opponents favor criminals over victims. This is not the case; we merely feel that this particular punishment is wrong. Besides, it seems to me that Hardesty's self-aggrandizement and pursuit of personal vendettas makes it clear that this is not about criminals, victims, the death penalty, or even Marc Klaas. It's about Michael P. Hardesty. I suspect that the only person that he truly empathizes with is the person who stares back at him from the mirror.

Steve Omlid
San Francisco

A note from Hardesty

Your statement that I sympathize with the killers is libelous. I demand an immediate retraction. I stand by my remarks and anyone is not mentally retarded could see the distinction between opposing the unconscionable hype promoted by the Marc Klaas and other so-called "victims rights" groups and actually supporting cold blooded murder. You are an unconscionable group of scoundrels who are absolutely beneath contempt. I never mocked any victims such as Polly Klaas. I do have the highest disdain for those people, family members or others, who use tragedies to promote dubious political ends, whether three strikes, the death penalty, gun control or any and all other restrictions on our individual rights. You people are intellectual cowards who excised the quite accurate remarks that I made about your awful columnist, Wayne Friday and his outrageous behavior on the Police Commission in reinstating a cop that the chief wanted to fire because of his brutal behavior towards his ex-spouse (a real victim). No wonder Harvey Milk felt the utmost disdain towards Bob Ross and associates.

Michael P. Hardesty
Oakland, CA

[As usual, you're misinformed. Harvey Milk was an associate, who wrote a column for the B.A.R. for many years.]

Letters to the editor should include a telephone number for our files (not for publication). Keep them short, signed, honest, to the point, and free of libel. Send them to 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco 94103.

Dole's electile dysfunction

by Wayne Friday

Only a couple of months ago she had that political "star" potential that any successful national politician must have to win. **Elizabeth Dole**, was, after all the first "serious" female candidate in history to run for president as a Republican (Brooklyn Representative **Shirley Chisholm** ran in a few state primaries as a Democratic in the 1960s) and, with a portfolio that included top cabinet posts under two presidents, she appeared headed for a serious run at the 2000 Republican presidential nomination.

However, while Dole may be the wife of the most recent GOP nominee and a powerhouse in her own right who continues to draw big crowds wherever she goes - 2,000 recently attended her appearance before the Detroit Economic Club - she is failing miserably in fundraising and in picking up support of important big-name Republicans.

No doubt, Dole has star quality, but she has failed to turn that into support, and she trails Texas Governor **George W. Bush** so badly that most political analysts feel that unless she wins an upset primary in someplace early like

New Hampshire, she will be relegated to at least a distant third behind Arizona Senator **John McCain** (and possibly other GOP hopefuls) by the time the party members seriously think about their nominee. Unlike Bush, or other candidates like former Vice President **Dan Quayle**, Dole enjoys no built-in political base beyond the goodwill established during her husband Bob's campaigns for national office.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the campaign contributions reported for the first quarter of this year: Dole has an anemic \$618,000, which paled next to the \$7.6 million that Bush raised in the same time period. Also, she is being criticized for being "scripted" in her appearances: one reporter, known nationally, complained this week that after waiting weeks for an interview with Dole, he was cut off after four questions (all of which were suggested by her staff) as she apologized that she had to "catch a waiting plane."

Many of her campaign appearances have been panned by reporters, as she rarely ventures beyond the most fail-safe platitudes, and has squandered important political opportunities, failing to show for a prime speaking spot recently at the California Republican Party convention, as well as others where she either became a no-show or canceled.

Indeed, the high-water mark of the Dole campaign to date seems to have been in January when she held a high-profile press conference to announce that she was resigning as president of the American Red Cross to run for president. While she has made some political moves that should endure her to the more moderate Republicans - she has said she would not push for a constitutional ban on abortion, she has angered some GOP conservatives by calling for China's entry into the World Trade Organization, and last week, while appearing in pro-gun New Hampshire, Dole voiced support for the federal as-



Elizabeth Dole

sault weapons ban and called for other gun controls - she has taken a safe pick-and-choose stand on other important issues.

Dole's reputation for giving carefully rehearsed answers to most questions has become such a common fact that when she was presented with the "One Smart Lady" award last week at a luncheon in New York City, presented by the *Ladies Home Journal*, Dole herself jokingly disavowed her reputation as a scripted perfection-

ist by promising "a major report detailing why I am not a perfectionist; I had hoped to release it sooner, but I found a typo when I was proofreading it for the third time."

Where is Elizabeth Dole on gay rights? Not even those close to her profess to know. One Washington insider who has known both Mrs. Dole and her husband for years told a reporter recently that "I know that Elizabeth has gay friends, but I doubt if she would be an advocate for their rights." Most political writers covering the Dole candidacy seem to feel that what Dole really is aiming for is the vice president slot on the 2000 GOP ticket - a feeling that irritates the woman. "Look," she snapped recently to reporters, "when you become involved in an arduous undertaking such as a presidential campaign, it is not to be vice president you do this to win." Sure. Dole is a long way away from winning, and those watching her effort say she is losing ground every day.

Politics and people

The city's Ethics Commission, and ultimately the Board of Supes, have the task of coming up with a spending cap for the 2000 supervisory district elections, and a recommendation will go on the November ballot. Sure, there are those who want to spend big (there's big money to be made for some), but anything over \$75,000 per district in this city would be outrageous.

When the Texas Rangers baseball team was sold last year, the \$606,600 investment that George W. Bush made in 1989 brought the likely 2000 Republican presidential nominee a \$14.3 million payday giving him a 2,359 percent profit. (Bush received an MBA from Harvard Business School.)

Gay rights activists in the East Bay tell me that Oakland Mayor **Jerry Brown**, long a supporter of gay and lesbian rights, has set aside six days in September to celebrate Gay Pride Week, in what the mayor has called "the largest homosexual event in the East Bay," expecting at least 50,000 participants.

Last week a longtime Republican party activist in San Francisco received a letter appealing for donations to the Republican National Committee from former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** (remember, the guy who won the House for the Republicans in 1994 then very nearly lost it in 1998), warning that the GOP "could lose control of Congress and be locked out of the White House for decades." Just for incentive, Gingrich included a color portrait of himself.

The next mayoral election in Sacramento isn't until March 2000, but already a number of gay and lesbian activists are reportedly lining up behind Councilman **Robbie Waters**, a former county sheriff, as their candidate in the capitol city.

Also in Sacramento, Assembly Speaker **Antonio Villaraigosa** released a letter this week signed by 44 of the 47 Assembly Democrats (including San Francisco's **Carole Migden** and **Kevin Shelley**) endorsing vice president **Al Gore** for president.

Meanwhile, according to a new CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, Gore has expanded his national lead over former N.J. senator **Bill Bradley**, Gore's only announced Democratic opponent, 66 percent to 23 percent; at the end of March, Bradley trailed Gore 54 percent to 34 percent.

Gay and lesbian candidates could score big in district elections in San Francisco next year: Incumbent **Tom Ammiano** will be favored in District 9; incumbent **Mark Leno** will be favored in District 8; incumbent **Leslie Katz** will likely run and win in District 6; School Board president **Juanita Owens** will probably be favored in District 5; Community College Board president **Lawrence Wong** is expected to run and will run strong in District 3, and there is at least one other supe district that a strong gay or lesbian could win in.

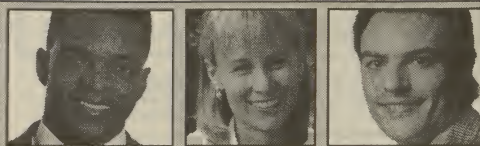
Now that Representative **James Rogan** has chickened out of a run against Senator **Dianne Feinstein** next year, state Insurance Commissioner **Chuck Quackenbush**, an ultra-conservative, is being touted as the likely Republican to take on the popular Feinstein.

Couples du jour - according to D.C.'s *Capital Style* magazine, Representative **Barney Frank** has a new boyfriend. "We're going with each other, yes," says **Sergio Pombo**, a Colombian attached to the World Bank. "We met through friends, then we ran into each other at the gym and, I guess, the rest is history." Last year Frank broke up with his longtime companion, **Herb Moses**, best recalled dancing with the Massachusetts congressman at the 1988 White House Yule party (just thought you'd appreciate the latest from the Washington gossip mill).

Microsoft mogul **Bill Gates** last week pledged \$25 million to help develop a vaccine against AIDS. (Yes, I know you're probably saying "he can afford it," but I would ask you this: What about all those who can afford it but never help?)

Friends and supporters of Board President **Tom Ammiano** are holding a reception honoring the popular supe (and to help pay off his campaign debt) on Tuesday, May 25 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Women Artists Gallery, located at 370 Hayes Street. There will be no-host bar, hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment for those donating \$35 and up. (Call 415-665-5417 for info.)

And how was your week? ▼



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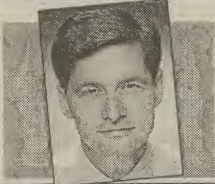
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The price of telling

by Nancy Boutilier

Talk show host Jenny Jones learned the price of telling, when a Michigan jury ordered her to pay \$25,000,000 to the Amedure family. But it was Scott Amedure who paid most dearly for the telling — he paid with his life. In 1995, Jones invited Amedure to come on her show and reveal his affections and desires for his friend Jonathan Schmitz. Schmitz, invited on to hear about a secret admirer, was so outraged to learn on camera that his admirer was another man that when they had returned to their hometown, Schmitz shot Amedure three days after the two-day, tell-all taping.

A talk show twist on an old tale, perhaps? One man, out of apparent fear of a homosexual advance or association, kills another. Homosexual panic as defense for a murder, we've heard it in courtrooms before, right? But, no, this time it the killer was not on trial, but the talk show, which the family claimed "did everything but pull the trigger."

Amedure's family accused the show's producers of humiliating the troubled Schmitz on the show, seeming to suggest that he was driven to kill their son, as if, it seems, the killing was somehow understandable — even if not justifiable, they felt certainly preventable. In short, the show was punished for the asking half of a "don't ask, don't tell" policy that is not even law in civilian life, let alone confessional television.

When will the military prove as willing as the Amedure family to pursue the problem of "askers" amid their ranks?

I'm not sure I agree with the court ruling, however. Imagine the parents in Littleton, Colorado, trying to sue the school district for creating an environment of humiliation, setting up two troubled boys to seek revenge in a violent extreme, all but pulling the trigger. Some right wingers want to



Last week, however, I had a "Don't Ask" epiphany. I heard a speaker discussing the early messages boys and girls get about their value in this culture. She defined that short period of time when it is impossible to determine a baby's sex by facial features



Dykeotomy

and clothed stature as "infant androgyny." She talked about the way we accessorize, even infants, to make clear their sex. Baby clothes themselves are so heavily gendered, as if in response to the intense discomfort most folks feel at not knowing which pronoun to use, or, more importantly, how to treat the child.

And, of course, the studies do show how differently infant girls and boys are treated as a result of their sex difference. How much touching, what kind of touching, how we speak to them, and, it generally follows, what we say to and about them.

The speaker even took the topic back to the imagined delivery room scene where, perhaps stereotyped but also worthy of consideration, she noted a different kind of

and should be examined.

The American Association of University Women's 1992 report "How Schools Shortchange Girls" identified some of the patterns of bias-statistically, boys dominate leadership positions, boys achievement in sport receive more public attention and reward, in the classroom boys are called on more frequently, demand and receive more attention from teachers. The level of sexual harassment that girls receive in coed environments is off the charts, though we are also beginning to recognize the unacceptable levels of harassment that many boys receive.

What is probably familiar to any B.A.R. reader is that when children cross those gender lines, awaiting them on the other sides are real consequences, and most are negative. A little girl playing tomboy gets some positive reinforcement, at least until middle school, but she'll be called "dyke" soon enough. Boys who venture into the narrowly defined "feminine" side of childhood — dolls, dance, non-aggressive or even considerate behavior — will face an onslaught of slurs, all of which add up to a hurtful and bigoted mix of misogyny and homophobia.

So, there I was at my staid little conference, when "Bam!" an epiphany up and hit me on the head. We need a way to put *do not tell* on every child, so that we develop in them all traits that offer the best of what is human.

If parents did not get to know if their children were girls or boys until, say, age 18, then every parent and teacher would want every child equipped with assertiveness, kindness, strength, generosity, the compassion, intellect, independence, responsibility, and a long list of traits that are the best of all humanity.

No one would know who was crossing any gender lines, and so individuals would be supported in the choices of toys, clothes, activities, friends, hobbies and habits — all those accessories that so rigidly mark masculinity and femininity. It's not about being sexless, but about presuming that both the best of masculinity and the best of femininity add up to the best of humanity for all people.

Perhaps that's easier to recognize when one encounters the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people living in a major jump across the gender line. Maybe we just have to keep telling about our lives. Even when nobody asks. Even when it is dangerous. Mostly because it is true. ▼

The show was punished for the asking half of a "don't ask, don't tell" policy that is not even law in civilian life, let alone confessional television.

speculate that the killers at Columbine were gay. It is pure speculation, but the fact is that the two were definitely gay-baited. Like the right wingers, high school bullies rarely ask — they presume and label people gay, anyone they want to demean or humiliate.

For those of us in day-to-day gay and lesbian adult living, it's impossible to not be asked. We get asked if we live alone, what we did last weekend, what books we read, and the full answers to many questions will reveal that we are gay, lesbian, and bisexual. Something about this settlement wants to sit right with me only because it's about time someone realized that there should be no policy for telling when we are so often asked.

Of course, I am generally a "shout it on the mountain top" kind of gal.

back-slapping that can occur among fathers in response to the words "It's a boy" than "It's a girl."

In this day of ultrasound technology, mothers can, if they choose, learn the sex of a child still in the womb. Some mothers choose not to know, opting for a delivery room surprise. The file is marked in bold letters: *do not tell*.

The focus of the conference was coeducation, the premise that if single-sex schools must defend the value of the all-female or all-male learning environment, then coed schools should be prepared to do the same. In a land where "separate but equal" has been discredited for years, a week after two high school boys reminded us all of what pain and rage can accompany the discrediting of one's masculinity, and in the same week that saw a female graduate from the Citadel, gender questions can

MEDIA ALERT

The man behind the 'ex-gay' ads

by Jerry Weinstein,
GLAAD publications
manager

This week the Center for Reclaiming America (CRA), which blanketed national newspapers with "gay conversion" ads last summer, begins round two. The launch of CRA's television spots in the nation's capital, based on last summer's print ads, makes the May 10 issue of *The New Republic* required reading. In it, Michelle Cottle profiles Florida's the Reverend D. James Kennedy, the founder of the Coral Ridge Ministries and the man behind the so-called Truth in Love campaign. Cottle's concise article, "The Next Jerry Falwell," charts the mission and growth of Kennedy's fiefdom over the last 40 years — an empire with 10,000 members, an annual operating budget of \$60 million, and an outreach office in Washington D.C. Her research lays bare Kennedy's values, positing him as a Reconstructionist — an ultraconservative movement that seeks to replace secular law with Old Testament laws, including "mandatory stoning of homosexuals, adulterers, blasphemers, juvenile delinquents, and women who go unchaste to their marriage beds."

Please commend *TNR* for this piece. It is especially timely and needed to successfully combat the messages of the religious political extremists.

Contact Nurith C. Aizenman, Managing Editor, *The New Republic*, 1220 19th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, fax: (202) 331-0275.

This Bud Light's for us

On Thursday, April 22, Anheuser-Busch placed an advertisement in a local St. Louis lesbian and gay publication, *EXP Magazine*. The Bud Light (an Anheuser brand) ad depicts two men holding hands with the taglines, "Be Yourself and Make It a Bud Light" and "Proud Sponsor of the St. Louis Pridefest '99."

What made the ad unique was that it was the beer manufacturer's first advertisement to include same-sex physical contact. While ad revenues from "mainstream" corporations in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) publications have significantly increased in the past few years, these ads usually shy away from depicting lesbian and gay couples in any intimate embrace. Popular "mainstream" newspapers and magazines almost always include heterosexual couples in some form of embrace, while similar ads in LGBT publications, sometimes for the very same products, feature two same-gender individuals minus the same affection. Readers are often asked to assume these couples are lesbian, gay, or bisexual simply by the placement of the ad in a LGBT publication.

An article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on Wednesday, April 21 detailed the launch of the Bud ads, which the company plans to use in other markets. Following the article, Bud was deluged by many negative phone calls and e-

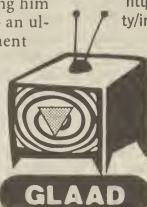


mails blasting the company for their ad.

Please contact Bud and let them know that their ad represents parity in advertising.

Call the feedback line at 1-800-DIAL BUD (342-5283), or access the feedback form on the Internet

<http://Budweiser.com/quality/index.html>



ESPN: Monday morning quarterbacking on school violence

Coverage on the tragedy of Littleton, Colorado has primarily focused on the easy availability of guns, the Trenchcoat Mafia, and even speculation on the sexual orientation of the two mass murderers. Tom Farrey, senior writer for ESPN, recently wrote an editorial entitled "Columbine: Use It or Lose It," [April 28] suggesting that the attitudes of high school athletics foster intolerance. Farrey makes a case for coaches altering their "take no prisoners" philosophy to one that teaches respect for independent thought and tolerance. He writes, "Jocks are the unapologetic enforcers of traditional norms in many high schools." The track and field coach at Cheshire, a nearby school, seems ready to take up the charge: "Good sportsmanship goes along with life. It's a matter of treating everyone with respect."

Please thank ESPN for this incisive look at jock culture and how a little self-policing will go a long way to foster tolerance.

Contact Bob Eaton, Managing Editor, ESPN, 935 Middle Street, Bristol, CT 06010-1000, fax: (860) 585-2213.

TV Guide finds (My So-Called) Life before Dawson's Creek

It has been well-covered terrain that this is the season of the gay teen. But before UPN was a glint in the eye of Paramount, *TV Guide's* Frank DeCaro reminds us (in "In the Out Crowd," May 1-7) that there was *My So-Called Life*, with gay teen Rickie Vasquez, played by Wilson Cruz. The character of Rickie Vasquez was for many a first glimpse on-screen of a gay teen. Flash forward to the present. Since last fall we've shared Jack McPhee's anguished coming out on *Dawson's Creek* and found out that Ryan Crane on *Felicity* was "family." This week *Party of Five's* Julia Slinger (Neve Campbell) gave us something to

talk about — the kiss — wrapped up in an episode that was a nuanced look into one young woman's exploration of her identity.

Please thank *TV Guide* for giving readers a humorous history lesson on the visibility of gay teens on broadcast television.

Contact Jack Curry, Managing Editor, *TV Guide*, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, 4th floor, New York, NY 10036, fax: (212) 852-7470.

What's love got to do with it?

While New Hampshire has recently moved to repeal its ban on gay and lesbian adoption, there is recent and pending legislation in Oklahoma and Texas that would limit adoption to heterosexuals. Freelance writer Daria MonDesire's commentary in *USA Today*, "Majority's Prejudices Thwart Good Parents," explores joint legal adoption and how "heterosexuals have no lock on being loving, limit-setting parents." MonDesire's editorial is punctuated by her plea for an open dialogue. "If this country valued its children, decisions about who is to parent them would be based on what is in their best interest, not prejudice. To deny a child a nurturing home simply because a prospective parent happens to be homosexual is nothing short of abuse."

USA Today is to be lauded for the immediacy of this op-ed.

Contact David Mazzarella, Editor, *USA Today*, 1000 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22229-3901, fax: (703) 247-3108, e-mail: editor@usatoday.com.

Post profiles black lesbian publisher

Yolanda Woodlee's piece in the April 29 *Washington Post*, entitled "Toilings of a Trailblazer," celebrates the accomplishments of Sheila Alexander-Reed, publisher of *Women in the Life*, a monthly periodical devoted to black women. This article charts both the personal journey of Alexander-Reed, her coming out as a lesbian, and the growth of her magazine from a four-page newsletter to a 20-page glossy. Woodlee details Alexander-Reed's recent honor, the Uncommon Woman award, for her work to enlighten and enhance the lives of black lesbians. This article focuses on the importance of social events in community building, as well as an important 16-page journal, breast cancer memoirs of lesbians of color, which Alexander-Reed undertook. This inspirational article shows that the passion of one individual can affect change.

Contact: Robert Kaiser, Managing Editor, *The Washington Post*, 1150 15th N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071 fax: (202) 334-6138, e-mail: www.washingtonpost.com

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glad@glad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's toll-free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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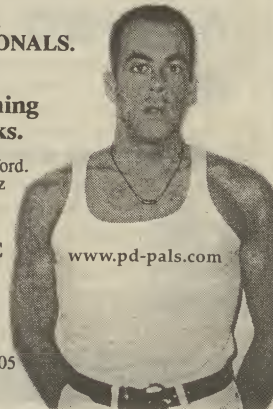
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Happy mugger's day

by Jane Warner and
Ron McGlashan, SFPDSunday, May 9, 1:45 a.m.,
Corner of Market and
Sanchez streets:

A couple from the area was out celebrating an early Mother's Day with the mother of one of the victims, when two armed suspects approached them.

The couple and the mother were stopped at gunpoint, ordered to lay face-down on the sidewalk, butted in the back of their heads by gun barrels, and were told "If you get up, we'll shoot you."

The suspects robbed the victims of two rings, a leather jacket, several credit cards, a cellular phone, and a small amount of change. The suspects are described as two African-American adult males, both about 6 feet tall, weighing around 200 pounds. They were last seen wearing black leather jackets and dark-colored bandannas around their faces, walking westbound on Market Street towards Castro.

Robber double trouble

Wednesday, May 5, 2 p.m.,
Larkin and O'Farrell streets: Multiple units of the SFPD responded to a 911 call of distress after two armed robbers hit the corner store. The owner of the store reported that two men entered the store demanding money and

pointing guns at the owner of the shop. An eyewitness called the police from a nearby phone booth and squad cars arrived on the scene immediately. As the officers arrived, the suspects fled the area in two separate cars and the police gave chase after them. One of the cars pulled over on the side of the street and the suspect jumped out and began running. Two police officers chased and apprehended him while the second vehicle sped off and smashed into a moving car. The second suspect was also apprehended and was transported to San Francisco General Hospital to be treated for injuries, accompanied by the arresting officers. Both men are in custody and face charges of armed robbery and a barrage of other charges.



Comely counterfeit in the Castro

Walgreens, 498 Castro Street: A counterfeit \$100 bill that was passed about two weeks ago at Walgreens in the Castro was such a good reproduction that counterfeit pen markers couldn't determine that it was a fraud. The manager grew suspicious, however, when he later noticed that the bill's security band was missing. The manager called the Secret Service, who determined that the bill was a fake. The Walgreens clerk who accepted the bill described the suspect counterfeiter as an African-American adult woman, 5 feet tall, 145 pounds, very pretty, and wearing smart, sharp work clothes.

Sleeper hits at Polk movie theater

Wednesday, May 5, 2 a.m.,
AMC Cinemas, Geary and Van Ness streets: A man who is known to frequent the neighborhood shelter was found asleep on the floor in one of the screening rooms of the AMC movie complex. An usher at the theater approached the man as he was laying on the floor and told him that he had to leave the building. The man refused and without warning, stood up and attacked the

usher, hitting him several times. The victim called for the security guard but the suspect ran out the back security door. Paramedics arrived and the victim was evaluated, and an assault report was taken by police. A search was made of the area, but the suspect was not found.

Smoking hits at Giraffe Video Lounge

Tuesday, May 4, 9:30 p.m.,
Giraffe Video Lounge, 1131 Polk Street: A patron of the Giraffe was standing outside the bar having a cigarette when a person - known in the area by the name Scott - approached him and asked him for a smoke. When the smoker refused and turned away, the suspect attacked him, hitting him in the face with a closed fist. The victim ran into the bar and asked the bartender to call the police and an ambulance. A search in the area proved futile, and the victim was treated on the scene by paramedics.

SFPD hiring

The SFPD will be accepting applications starting this Friday, May 14 and continuing through May 21. Golden State Peace Officers Association representatives will be hosting a recruitment booth in the Castro this weekend, (May 14-16) and those interested in a law enforcement career are encouraged to apply. Police Commissioner Wayne Friday urged gay men and lesbians to consider a career in police work. "Some of our finest officers come from the gay and lesbian community," Friday said. For more information, call the recruitment unit at (415) 553-1999 or e-mail questions to GSPOA member Officer Philip Fleck at PM-Fleck@aol.com. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs. For information call the office at (415) 553-1651, or page Ron McGlashan at (415) 201-6004. The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

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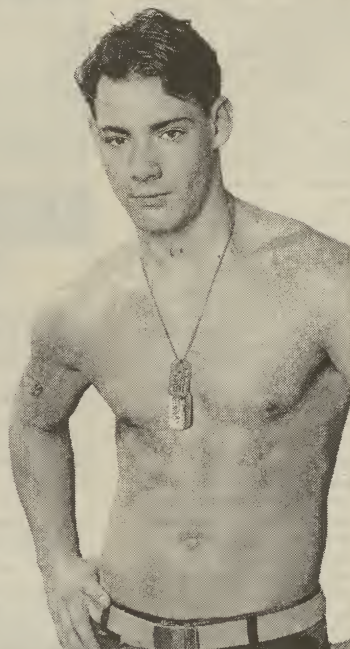
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told the B.A.R., "the SF Patrol is asking for volunteers to assist in starting a walking patrol for the next couple of weeks. The objective of the volunteer patrol is to be the 'eyes and ears' of the police and to help prevent future crime against our community."

Warner said that the recent crime wave is partly due to the "belief that the Castro community is filled with a bunch of pacifists. We're here," Warner added, "to make sure that this isn't true. We're here to take back our neighborhood and community involvement is essential to make sure that this happens."

Gay activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca - who manages A Different Light Bookstore, which was robbed at midnight Friday, April 30 - was the first to volunteer his time for the Castro neighborhood patrol. "It's sounds to me like these robberies are committed by gangs or groups. In every robbery the guys get in and get out very quickly, and they [the robberies]

all seem so similar. And it's not just happening in the Castro. It's happening in the Mission, the Lower and Upper Haight, and I'm sure in other areas.

"But no matter where you live, neighborhoods need to band together, like the queer community used to do a number of years ago. We used to have a group called the 'Pink Patrol,' [originally the Pink Panthers] and that's what we need today."

Interested volunteers for the Castro neighborhood patrol will need to dedicate a few hours of their free time, bring a whistle, a flashlight, pen and paper, and a cell phone, if possible. Traffic vests and training will be provided. "We desperately need these volunteers," Avicoli Mecca added. ▼

Information regarding persons responsible for the Castro robberies should be reported by calling 1-800-GIVE-INFO (1-800-244-8340). Interested volunteers for the Castro neighborhood patrol can contact the SF Patrol Special Police at (415) 679-1827.

It wasn't broken. But they fixed it, anyway.

The untold story of San Francisco's housing crisis.

1. THE CITY THAT KNEW HOW.

IN 1970 San Francisco was the same town, but different. It was the multi-ethnic sophisticated seaport city of legend, the Paris of the Pacific, that it is today. It was also called, then, the City That Knows How.

The difference was that in 1970, the City That Knew How did not have a housing crisis.

Rents were moderate and stable, home prices were slightly above market but not unaffordable. The vacancy factor—the danger signal in escalating rent prices; a low percentage of vacancies forces rental prices skyward—had stayed at a healthy 4 to 6 percent throughout the 50's and 60's.

Federal government housing guidelines warn that anything below a 4 percent vacancy rate signals trouble for renters and home buyers alike. At that point, the market stumbles over the trip wire of Economics 1A—that a limited supply means higher prices.

By the early 70's, San Francisco's vacancy rate had fallen to a disturbing 3.2 percent. This slippage was attributed, correctly, to the massive Redevelopment Agency's ethnic cleansing of the Western Addition which razed the Victorian structures housing much of the city's black population.

City planners, however, were undisturbed at the drop in the vacancy rate. They took solace from three decades of a declining population in San Francisco, from a post-war high of 827,000 to 665,000 in 1976. Expert opinion held that by 1990 the city would have a population leveling around the 640,000 plateau. [The population of San Francisco today is approximately 750,000.]

So confident were planners that a continued decline in population would keep rent prices manageable, they commissioned an Environmental Impact Report on a proposed rezoning of San Francisco that would drastically reduce allowable density of residential districts. The new laws downzoned most of the city's neighborhoods in a way that dried up the construction of new apartment units to a trickle. This granted a longed-for wish of many neighborhood activists, and as planning policy, was politically attractive. If new housing is needed, San Franciscans notoriously don't want it in their own backyards.

2. "WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE IS PRICING PEOPLE OUT OF THE CITY"

IN RECOMMENDING that San Francisco could afford to divest itself of 180,000 new units of housing before the millennium without creating a housing crisis, the authors of the 1978 Environmental Impact Report, carefully covered their bets, cautioning: "The proposed new zoning regulation works to intensify the pressures for rising rents and housing prices in San Francisco." This ranks as one of the great understatements of the last quarter of the 20th century.

The Board of Supervisors in 1978 voted 8-3 to restrict building new market rate housing in the neighborhoods. Among the naysayers was then-Supervisor Quentin Kopp, who called the proposed downzoning a "disaster" for San Francisco. Kopp predicted that the new zoning would create a housing shortage and drive the middle class out of the city.

"What we're doing here is pricing people out of the city," said Supervisor Robert Gonzales.

These latter-day Cassandras might as well have been predicting the Fall of Troy; few listened. Those who were Cassandras in 1978 have now become prophets. The downzoning restrictions were exacerbated by moratoriums imposed against residential building from 1987 to 1995. New market rate housing construction fell from 1700 units a year in the 70's to 400 in the 90's. The vacancy factor, which

"Hey! You were supposed to improve housing, not cut it."

Editorial cartoon, San Francisco Progress, 7.12.78



"ZONING PLAN EXCLUDES PEOPLE."—Headline in the community-based San Francisco Progress, opposing the Planning Commission's 1978 zoning decision to drastically restrict the building of new housing in San Francisco. The Progress predicted that putting a freeze on building would drive up the cost of rents and homes and force low and moderate income people out of the city. The price of downzoning, the Progress predicted, was that "Only those who can afford to pay dearly will be able to live in San Francisco."

city planners believed would not drop below 3 percent, plummeted to 1 percent and below.

San Francisco was caught in a classic supply and demand situation, with so little building, housing prices skyrocketed to the highest in the nation.

3. CLOGGED SAFETY VALVES.

HOUSING IN SAN FRANCISCO has been hobbled because the city planners forgot to open the safety valves that they themselves had installed to prevent a housing crisis in the event their calculations backfired.

The main safety valve in the event of a drop in the vacancy rate and rising rents was to go back to building new housing. "Unless a surplus of market rate housing can be built the proposed zoning will exacerbate the present lack of housing for low- and moderate-income households," the planners themselves wrote in 1978, forecasting their own disaster.

The safety valve rule of thumb was that new housing production must keep pace with housing needs. This opened a window of opportunity for the elderly and low income families to stay in the rental market—what the planners called the "filter down" effect. Higher income people tend to buy newer housing making older housing "available to low and moderate income households who cannot compete effectively in the market place for new housing."

The law of the real estate jungle is that if a surplus of new market rate housing is not built, older housing will be snatched up by higher income renters and buyers—and low and moderate income people will be forced out of the city. If you want an example of this law in action, look at San Francisco through the mid-80's to the mid 90's.

They said it couldn't happen here. But it did.

4. SOUTH OF MARKET M.I.A.

BREAK GLASS IN THE EVENT OF HOUSING CRISIS: The 1978 comprehensive new zoning laws specifically repealed an earlier prohibition (from a 1921 zoning ordinance) on building residential units in industrial areas, spotlighting the old industrial sites South of Market as the solution to the clear and present threat

that a housing crisis might be created by downzoning the rest of the city. The planners walked South of Market and amid the many shuttered businesses—light industry was already in flight from the city—identified vacant lots in the industrial area sufficient for building as many as 223,000 new housing units.

5. "WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE KNOWN AS THE GENERATION THAT SAVED THE WHALES, THE FISHES AND THE BIRDS ...BUT FORGOT ITS PEOPLE."

SO SPOKE then-Supervisor Robert Gonzales in 1978, voting against downzoning that put San Francisco in the pretty pickle it is today. The city has kept its eye upon the hole of planning and building restrictions, but not the doughnut of people who have to live here. Restricting housing construction the way we have done has made this city a living hell for renters. Judy Seto of the Chinatown Coalition for Better Housing, opposing downzoning: "The opposite of downward filtering is occurring right now—low-income people are being squeezed out of their homes all over the city by richer people."

Today there is controversy over so-called "live-work" lofts being built South of Market. Some 2000 units of new housing have been built on vacant industrial sites over the past 3 years—the first such significant new market rate housing built in there since the 1978 rezoning laws.

This fuss is excruciatingly ironic, because the vacant lots where live-work units are being built in old South of Market industrial sites were the very ones identified in 1978 by the downzoning planners, as the desirable area to build new housing.

Now there are cries—the loudest from many of the same folks who created the downzoning that gave us the housing crisis—to enact yet another moratorium on desperately needed new residential units South of Market to save the vacant lots for blue collar industry which will never come back, the way the big cargo freighters never came back to the waterfront.

6. THE STORY OF A CRIME.

THE STORY of San Francisco's housing crisis is the story of a crime. What began with perhaps the best of intentions ended up a bureaucratic crime against renters, the elderly, first-time home buyers and all lower income households attempting to live in San Francisco in an artificially restricted real estate market with the deck stacked against them.

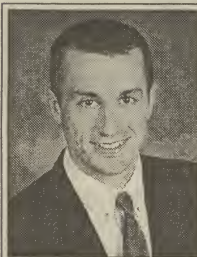
The city planners knew in 1978 the potential consequences of downzoning if surplus market rate housing was not put on line. They knew they built in safety valves, safeguards to guard against a housing crisis. Yet those safety valves were never turned on. The most important—building new residential housing South of Market—was turned off. Only when private builders began constructing live-work units in the vacant lots South of Market did the housing remedies recommended and mandated by the 1978 planning code begin to kick in.

Every crime has elements of mystery. The mystery is who sabotaged the safety valves intended to protect San Franciscans from the outrageously escalating housing costs that have impacted renters and homeowners alike. Why was the precipitous drop from 4 to 6 percent to under 1 percent vacancy ignored by the city when the safety mechanism to build on vacant South of Market industrial sites is already in place?

Who profited from this crime? These are questions to which the long-suffering renters of San Francisco deserve answers.

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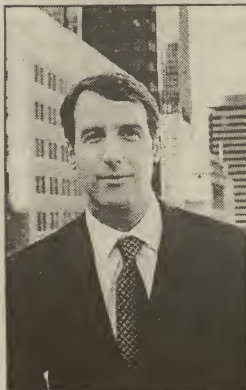
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Senate holds hate crimes hearing

by Bob Roehr

The Senate Judiciary Committee room was packed, but hushed, as Judy Shepard testified. "In Matt's room at the hospital what we found was a motionless unaware young man," she said, "with his head swathed in bandages, his face covered with stitches, and tubes everywhere - enabling the body to hold on to life. One of his eyes was partially open. But the twinkle of life wasn't there anymore."

As Matthew Shepard's mother provided the emotional heart of testimony on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 (S. 662) on Tuesday, May 11, a line of people waited in the corridor to get in; only three senators managed to reach the dais during the two-hour proceeding.

The bill would remove the restriction of an interstate commerce or classically defined civil rights justification for federal intervention. It also would expand the enumerated categories to include sexual orientation, gender, and disability.

Hatch's intersection

Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) spoke of "facts and issues that are at once staggering and difficult." He called it an "intersection between our well-intentioned desire to investigate, prosecute, and, hopefully end these vicious crimes, and our unequivocal duty to respect the constitutional boundaries governing any legislative action we take."

He laid out "four features of an approach" that possibly could finess these concerns. It includes a Justice Department fund to help states and localities investigate hate crimes, analysis of gathered data, development of model state legislation, and expansion of federal jurisdiction to cover hate crimes where state lines have been crossed. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), the chief sponsor of the bill, had no such qualms. "Tragically, the silence of Congress on this basic issue has been deafening, and it is unacceptable," he thundered.

"We must stop acting like we don't care - that somehow this fundamental issue is just a state and local problem. It isn't. It's a national problem, and for too long, Congress has been AWOL."

Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder testified that "current federal law is simply inadequate ... the intent requirement has led to acquittals in several cases" and prohibited federal officials from assisting local officials in some cases.

He held out the example of the dragging death of James Byrd, Jr. where the Department of Justice was able to establish jurisdiction and collaborate with officials in Jasper, Texas.

Hatch suggested that since the department has prosecuted on average only six cases a year under existing hate crimes laws, and does not anticipate that number increasing significantly under the proposed expansion, that it request only the power to assist state and local officials in their prosecution of hate crimes.

Holder responded that they want the ability to act independently "when state and local authorities are unwilling or unable



Judy Shepard (left), mother of the late Matthew Shepard, testified along with Human Rights Campaign Exec. Dir. Elizabeth Birch before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on hate crimes on May 11.

to prosecute a case." When pressed, he was unable to cite examples of this happening, but promised to respond in writing.

Is rape a hate crime?

"Let me ask you about the inclusion of gender," said Hatch. "Rapists are very seldom indifferent to the gender of their victims." Would rape then become a federal crime?

"Not all rape cases would be brought in federal court," said Holder. He compared it to existing gun and drug laws where there is overlapping jurisdiction.

Local and federal authorities consult to see where charges would best be filed.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania), a co-sponsor of the bill, called hate crimes "really hot potatoes" that local prosecutors may be reluctant to handle. He would like to see data on how significant a problem this may be.

Jeanine Ferris Pirro, the Republican Westchester (New York) County District Attorney, was "concerned" about the expansion of federal jurisdiction. However, she forcefully stated, "Hate crime

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Clinton pushes Texas hate crimes bill; Bush opposes it

by Jennifer Brooks, UPI

President Clinton, making a fundraising visit to Texas, met with the daughter of dragging death victim James Byrd, Jr. Friday, May 7 and pushed state lawmakers to approve a hate crimes bill in his memory.

The bill, providing increased penalties for crimes based on such factors as race and sexual orientation, was named after Byrd, the 49-year-old disabled black man who was chained to the back of a pickup truck last June and dragged to his death along a rough dirt road in eastern Texas.

Police investigating the killing charged three white men, two of whom are former cellmates sporting white supremacist tattoos.

The proposed James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act passed the Texas House last week but has hit a roadblock in the Republican-dominated Senate. The bill was left pending by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee last Thursday after a daylong hearing.

Byrd's family members testified before the committee and met with Governor George W. Bush, who opposes the measure.

They said Bush was cordial but declined to use his influence to get the bill to the Senate floor, where it currently lacks enough votes for passage.

The Texas version of the bill would toughen penalties for a range of such crimes committed against a person because of race, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or age. The

categories of protected victims also include pregnant women.

Democratic state Senator Rodney Ellis said he believes Republicans oppose his bill mainly because it would extend protections to homosexuals.

It is widely believed that Bush, the unannounced front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, is reluctant to support the bill because it would open him to attacks from the Republican right.

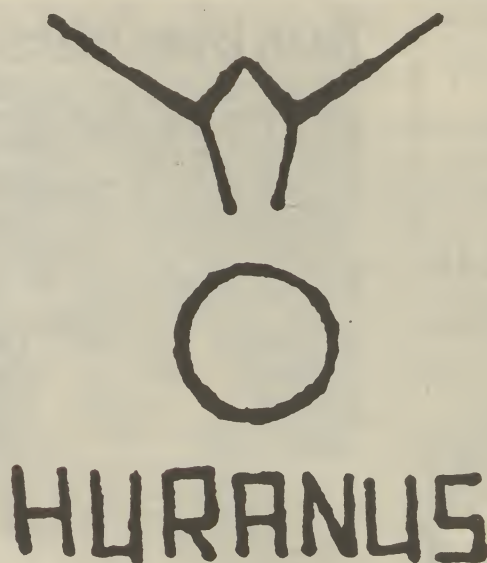
During an address to a fundraising luncheon earlier in the day in Houston, Clinton reiterated his disgust with the killing of Byrd and appealed for Texas lawmakers to approve the bill.

"I hope that Texas will say, 'We don't want people to be hurt because of their race, because they're gay, because of whatever; and when people are hurt in that way, we stand against it,'" Clinton said.

Clinton greeted and hugged Byrd's daughter, Renee Mullins, as he stepped off Air Force One in Austin en route to a Democratic Party fundraising dinner. Mullins, who is 4-1/2 months pregnant, was among those who discussed the hate crimes bill Thursday with Bush, who is considering a run for president next year.

Bush repeatedly refused last Wednesday to answer questions about the bill, saying only that he would consider it if it gets to his desk.

Mullins said she told the governor, "Next to God, you're the guy with my father's fate in your hands. It's up to you whether or not my father died in vain." ▼



Take power! Private enterprise and socialism - not capitalism. Private enterprise is a business run by the individual, or individuals, who own it. Socialism is the social ownership and running of the means of production by the state. Capitalism is the private ownership and running of the means of production, and production for a profit rather than to satisfy the social need. It is also the exploitation of labor, of workers. Workers get only a subsistence wage out of the great wealth they produce.

PLATFORM AND AGENDA

Taxes

I support a flat tax of 25% on all income, individual and corporate, over one hundred thousand dollars. All deductions should be eliminated.

Wages

I support a minimum wage of 15 dollars an hour. This would double corporate profits and help eliminate unemployment, poverty, and hunger. With an economy as large and as wealthy as ours this is more than affordable. I support a minimum wage /income of thirty thousand dollars a year.

Work Week

I support a 30 hour work week, five six hour days. This would eliminate unemployment, poverty, and hunger. We should have 30 hours work for 40 hours pay.

African Americans

I support reconciliation with African Americans. I would give an acre, or a parcel of land, to every African American 18 years and older, who can prove one of their parents was born in the United States. This land would be located in the South, and would come out of public and probate government property. Southern industrialists benefited most from African slavery, so the South should pay.

The Military

I support reducing the military budget from 250 billion dollars a year back to 80 billion dollars a year. I would close all our military bases abroad in Europe and Asia, and leave Guantanamo, Cuba.

Wall Street

The corporate bureaucracy is too expensive. I would limit total compensation for executive officers of companies to no more than 2 million dollars a year. They are ripping off the stock holders and cutting corporate profits.

Education

I support free college education.

Medicine

I support 3 billion dollars a year for AIDS research, and 3 billion dollars a year for research into breast cancer in women. All employers should be required to provide 100% health insurance coverage.

Gay Rights

I support same sex marriages.

Benefits

Welfare and S.S.I. should pay one thousand dollars a month. S.S.D. payments should be doubled up to a maximum of two thousand dollars a month. Cost of living adjustments should be added on top of this. This will be a boost to business and the economy, and cut crime.

I am Anthony De Palma the independent, underground, write-in candidate for president in 2000. Please mail all contributions to:

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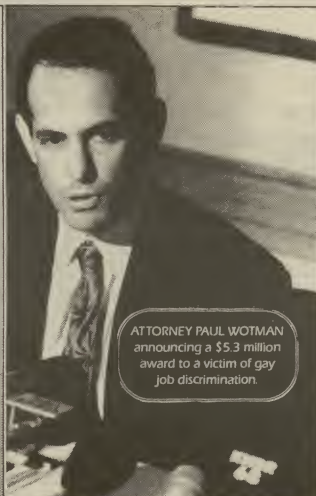
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Drag kings make merry



It was a night of illusions and different realities at the 4th annual S.F. Drag King Contest staged by DragStrip last Sunday, May 9 at the DNA Lounge. Contenders for the coveted title "S.F. Drag King '99" did their best to convey their manly attributes, but the guy who carried off the crown and most entertained the crowd was Barry White, pictured here with a back-up singer peering over his shoulder. The extravaganza was a benefit for PAWS.

Poll says voters will support gay candidates

by Bob Roehr

A strong majority of American voters will consider voting for openly gay or lesbian candidates, according to a new study conducted for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation and released Thursday, May 6. That applies to all demographic groups within the electorate, including Republicans and Christian fundamentalists.

"We commissioned the focus groups and polls to figure out a road map" to help gay candidates plan their campaigns, says Brian Bond, executive director of the Victory Fund and Victory Foundation. Voters want to support candidates most like themselves. "Message is a priority, and how you are allowed to be characterized," Bond says. "Which is not that much different from any other candidate." It places a priority on defining oneself through issues rather than allowing your opponent to do it for you.

To Bond, it also means that lesbian and gay candidates must have the financial resources to get their message out very quickly to

establish that identity.

There is a fine but not always distinct line in voters' minds about a gay or lesbian candidate being out. Strong majorities of all categories of voters appreciate that honesty. In an era of general cynicism about politicians, being out can be seen as a positive distinction.

Tammy Baldwin told the recent NOW Lesbian Summit how when she ran for the Wisconsin Assembly in 1992, "This guy who was approaching me. I saw him coming and I thought, here comes trouble. He got up to me and he said, to my surprise, 'Gosh lady, you've got guts. If you're honest about that, you've got to be honest about everything.' And I knew I had his vote."

But there also is a danger of being perceived as "flaunting" one's orientation by dwelling on it too much. That is why the gay or lesbian candidate must base a campaign on issues that resonate with the voters.

One of the most fascinating parts of the national survey was a "split sample." Group A was told two candidates' basic issues concerns, but no specific issue-by-issue contrasts. Group B was given

the same information and also told that the first candidate was gay, while Group C was told that the second candidate was gay.

Neither candidate received a majority of polling votes from Group A, while in the later two, "the straight candidate benefited from an average 15 point differential over the gay candidate," regardless of which set of issues he was identified with.

Thus the hard-core anti-gay bigotry that clouds all other concerns is about 15 percent of the current electorate. It is a difficult but not insurmountable obstacle for gay or lesbian candidates.

The general trend of the survey showed greater support for gays among the young and better educated. That tapers off as the voter sample ages and becomes more conservative. Still, all groups strongly supported employment protection and hate crimes legislation that covers gays.

"I was encouraged that 65 percent of Republican primary voters were willing to play ball" and consider a candidate who was lesbian or gay, says Bond. "I think that is an encouraging sign of where this country is moving." ▼

Hate crimes bill

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is a civil rights issue, and the proper role of the federal government in controlling this menace should mirror federal action in other areas of civil rights.

"In the 1960s, there were states unwilling to guarantee equal rights to all Americans. Citizens across our nation responded by raising their voices in a cry for justice. ... Eventually, our government declared that civil rights cannot be allowed to fall prey to bigotry and intolerance. Senators, today we are still marching."

Kenneth Brown is one of only three prosecuting attorneys for Albany County, Wyoming, where Matthew Shepard was murdered and the trials are taking place. He said, "A case of this magnitude and import puts a financial strain on our county like nothing else

we've experienced," and called for assistance for small communities like Laramie, Wyoming.

Burt Neuborne, a professor at New York University School of Law, believes that passage of the bill "may do three very important things." It may deter some hate crimes, enhance the penalty for those convicted, and by putting more resources into apprehension, result in more perpetrators being caught.

He cited the Church Arson Act, passed just a few years ago. "The apprehension rate of church bombings has gone up to 34 percent, more than double the apprehension rate" in traditional arson cases. He attributed it to the creation of joint federal-state task forces to deal with the issue.

The far right was given a sop in the form of testimony by Robert Knight with the Family Research Council. He spun an Orwellian tale that painted Christians as "victims" of homosexual activists.

He said the bill would not cover those shot in Littleton, Colorado "because they were targeted because they were athletes."

"The whole concept of hate crimes is flawed because it sets up special classes of victims afforded a higher level of protection than others victimized by similar crimes," Knight said. "Run of the mill crime victims do not have a lobby."

The Human Rights Campaign has been a major force pushing for this legislation. Winnie Stachelberg, its political director, was "encouraged that Senator Hatch really understands that hate violence exists in this country, especially against the gay and lesbian community."

"But if we wait for all 50 states to adopt legislation that includes sexual orientation and some of the other groups, we are going to wait for a very long time," she said, "And unfortunately see more cases like Matthew Shepard." ▼

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Precautions and Warnings from the OXANDRIN[®] (oxandrolone, USP) CIII Package Insert: In patients receiving androgenic anabolic steroid therapy, 1) peliosis hepatis, a condition in which the liver and sometimes splenic tissue is replaced with blood-filled cysts, has been reported; 2) liver cell tumors are also reported; 3) blood lipid changes that are known to be associated with increased risk of atherosclerosis are seen. See *Warnings* and *Precautions* sections of complete prescribing information.

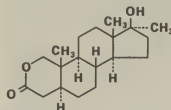
Contraindications: 1) known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast; 2) carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption); 3) pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose; 4) nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis; 5) hypercalcemia.

References: 1. Strawford A, Barbieri T, Van Loan M, et al. The effects of oxandrolone plus resistance exercise on nitrogen balance, body composition and strength in men with AIDS wasting syndrome. Presented at: 12th World AIDS Conference; June 28-July 3, 1998; Geneva, Switzerland. Abstract. 2. Fisher A, Abbaticola M, the Oxandrolone Study Group. The effects of oxandrolone on body weight and composition in patients with HIV-associated weight loss. Presented at: 5th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; February 1-5, 1998; Chicago, Ill. Abstract. 3. Berger JR, Pall L, Hall CD, et al. Oxandrolone in AIDS-wasting myopathy. *AIDS*. 1996;10:1657-1662.

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DESCRIPTION

Oxandrin® oral tablets contain 2.5 mg of the anabolic steroid oxandrolone. Oxandrolone is 17 β -hydroxy-17 α -methyl-2-oxa-5 α -androstan-3-one with the following structural formula:



Inactive ingredients include cornstarch, lactose, magnesium stearate, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Anabolic steroids are synthetic derivatives of testosterone. Certain clinical effects and adverse reactions demonstrate the androgenic properties of this class of drugs. Complete dissociation of anabolic and androgenic effects has not been achieved. The actions of anabolic steroids are therefore similar to those of male sex hormones with the possibility of causing serious disturbances of growth and sexual development if given to young children. Anabolic steroids suppress the gonadotropic functions of the pituitary and may exert a direct effect upon the testes.

During exogenous administration of anabolic androgens, endogenous testosterone release is inhibited through inhibition of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). At large doses, spermatogenesis may be suppressed through feedback inhibition of pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH).

Anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins and decrease high-density lipoproteins. These levels revert to normal on discontinuation of treatment.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Oxandrin is indicated as adjunctive therapy to promote weight gain after weight loss following extensive surgery, chronic infections, or severe trauma, and in some patients who without definite pathophysiologic reasons fail to gain or to maintain normal weight, to offset the protein catabolism associated with prolonged administration of corticosteroids, and for the relief of the bone pain frequently accompanying osteoporosis (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Oxandrolone is classified as a controlled substance under the Anabolic Steroids Control Act of 1990 and has been assigned to Schedule III (non-narcotic).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast.
2. Carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption).
3. Pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose.
4. Nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis.
5. Hypercalcemia.

WARNINGS

PELIOSIS HEPATIS, A CONDITION IN WHICH LIVER AND SOMETIMES SPLENIC TISSUE IS REPLACED WITH BLOOD-FILLED CYSTS, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROID THERAPY. THESE CYSTS ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT WITH MINIMAL HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FAILURE. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING LIVER FAILURE OR INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG USUALLY RESULTS IN COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE OF LESIONS.

LIVER CELL TUMORS ARE ALSO REPORTED. MOST OFTEN THESE TUMORS ARE BENIGN AND ANDROGEN-DEPENDENT, BUT FATAL MALIGNANT TUMORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG OFTEN RESULTS IN REGRESSION OR CESSATION OF PROGRESSION OF THE TUMOR. HOWEVER, HEPATIC TUMORS ASSOCIATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS ARE MUCH MORE VASCULAR THAN OTHER HEPATIC TUMORS AND MAY BE SILENT UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. BLOOD LIPID CHANGES THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS ARE SEEN IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE DECREASED HIGH-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS AND SOMETIMES INCREASED LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS. THE CHANGES MAY BE VERY MARKED AND COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE.

Cholestatic hepatitis and jaundice may occur with 17-alpha-alkylated androgens at a relatively low dose. If cholestatic hepatitis with jaundice appears or if liver function tests become abnormal, oxandrolone should be discontinued and the etiology should be determined. Drug-induced jaundice is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

In patients with breast cancer, anabolic steroid therapy may cause hypercalcemia by stimulating osteolysis. Oxandrolone therapy should be discontinued if hypercalcemia occurs.

Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with pre-existing cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. Concomitant administration of adrenal cortical steroid or ACTH may increase the edema.

In children, androgen therapy may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect results in compromised adult height. The younger the child, the greater the risk of compromising final mature height. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the left wrist and hand every 6 months (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**).

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.

PRECAUTIONS**General:**

Women should be observed for signs of virilization (deepening of the voice, hirsutism, acne, clitoromegaly). Discontinuation of drug therapy at the time of evidence of mild virilism is necessary to prevent irreversible virilization. Some virilizing changes in women are irreversible even after prompt discontinuance of therapy and are not prevented by concomitant use of estrogens. Menstrual irregularities may also occur.

Anabolic steroids may cause suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII, and X, and an increase in prothrombin time.

Information for patients:

The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following side effects of androgens:

Males: Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis, appearance or aggravation of acne.

Females: Hoarseness, acne, changes in menstrual periods, or more facial hair.

All patients: Nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

Laboratory tests:

Women with disseminated breast carcinoma should have frequent determination of urine and serum calcium levels during the course of therapy (See **WARNINGS**).

Because of the hepatotoxicity associated with the use of 17-alpha-alkylated androgens, liver function tests should be obtained periodically.

Periodic (every 6 months) x-ray examinations of bone age should be made during treatment of children to determine the rate of bone maturation and the effects of androgen therapy on the epiphyseal centers.

Serum lipids and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol determinations should be done periodically as androgenic anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins. Serum cholesterol levels may increase during therapy. Therefore, caution is required when administering these agents to patients with a history of myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease. Serial determinations of serum cholesterol should be made and therapy adjusted accordingly.

Hemoglobin and hematocrit should be checked periodically for polycythemia in patients who are receiving high doses of anabolic steroids.

Drug interactions**Anticoagulants:**

Anabolic steroids may increase sensitivity to oral anticoagulants. Dosage of the anticoagulant may have to be decreased in order to maintain desired prothrombin time. Patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy require close monitoring, especially when anabolic steroids are started or stopped.

Oral hypoglycemic agents:

Oxandrolone may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

Adrenal steroids or ACTH:

In patients with edema, concomitant administration with adrenal cortical steroids or ACTH may increase the edema.

Drug/Laboratory test interactions:

Anabolic steroids may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T₄ serum levels and increased resin uptake of T₃ and T₄. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged. In addition, a decrease in PBI and radioactive iodine uptake may occur.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility**Animal data:**

Oxandrolone has not been tested in laboratory animals for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects. In 2-year chronic oral rat studies, a dose-related reduction of spermatogenesis and decreased organ weights (testes, prostate, seminal vesicles, ovaries, uterus, adrenals, and pituitary) were shown.

Human data:

Liver cell tumors have been reported in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgenic anabolic steroids in high doses (See **WARNINGS**). Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

Pregnancy:

Teratogenic effects—Pregnancy Category X (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Nursing mothers:

It is not known whether anabolic steroids are excreted in human milk. Because of the potential of serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oxandrolone, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric use:

Anabolic agents may accelerate epiphyseal maturation more rapidly than linear growth in children and the effect may continue for 6 months after the drug has been stopped. Therefore, therapy should be monitored by x-ray studies at 6-month intervals in order to avoid the risk of compromising adult height. Androgenic anabolic steroid therapy should be used very cautiously in children and only by specialists who are aware of the effects on bone maturation (See **WARNINGS**).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions have been associated with use of anabolic steroids:

Hepatic: Cholestatic jaundice with, rarely, hepatic necrosis and death. Hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatitis with long-term therapy (See **WARNINGS**). Reversible changes in liver function tests also occur including increased bromsulphthalein (BSP) retention, and increases in serum bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST, SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase.

In males:

Prepubertal: Phallic enlargement and increased frequency or persistence of erections.

Postpubertal: Inhibition of testicular function, testicular atrophy and oligospermia, impotence, chronic priapism, epididymitis, and bladder irritability.

In females:

Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.

CNS: Habituation, excitation, insomnia, depression, and changes in libido.

Hematologic: Bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy.

Breast: Gynecomastia.

Larynx: Deepening of the voice in females.

Hair: Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

Skin: Acne (especially in females and prepubertal males).

Skeletal: Premature closure of epiphyses in children (See **PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric use**).

Fluid and electrolytes: Edema, retention of serum electrolytes (sodium chloride, potassium, phosphate, calcium).

Metabolic/Endocrine: Decreased glucose tolerance (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**), increased creatinine excretion, increased serum levels of creatinine phosphokinase (CPK). Masculinization of the fetus. Inhibition of gonadotropin secretion.

OVERDOSAGE

No symptoms or signs associated with overdosage have been reported. It is possible that sodium and water retention may occur.

The oral LD₅₀ of oxandrolone in mice and dogs is greater than 5,000 mg/kg. No specific antidote is known, but gastric lavage may be used.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Therapy with anabolic steroids is adjunctive to and not a replacement for conventional therapy. The duration of therapy with Oxandrin (oxandrolone) will depend on the response of the patient and the possible appearance of adverse reactions. Therapy should be intermittent.

Adults: The usual adult dosage of Oxandrin is one 2.5-mg tablet 2 to 4 times daily. However, the response of individuals to anabolic steroids varies, and a daily dosage of as little as 2.5 mg or as much as 20 mg may be required to achieve the desired response. A course of therapy of 2 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

Children: For children the total daily dosage of Oxandrin is ≤ 0.1 mg per kilogram body weight or ≤ 0.045 mg per pound of body weight. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

HOW SUPPLIED

Oxandrin 2.5-mg tablets are oval, white, and scored with BTG on one side and "11" on each side of the scoreline on the other side; bottles of 100 (NDC 54396-111-11).

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- 66% had visible regrowth as rated by independent dermatologists (vs. 7% with placebo).
- 80% were rated as improved by clinical doctors (vs. 47% with placebo).
- Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance.

*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

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Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

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For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

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If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

South Africa AIDS initiative launched, controversy swirls

by Bob Roehr

When we talk about children we talk about our future," said Grace Mnguni, a HIV/AIDS community organizer in South Africa. She spoke of working with children who have never had a chance to play or go to school. "The greatest thing that one can bring is hope."

"We cannot allow AIDS to wipe out our hope for tomorrow." Mnguni was at a Thursday, May 6 news conference in Washington called by Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) to announce "Secure the Future," the pharmaceutical company's commitment of \$100 million over five years to fight AIDS in Africa. The program will focus on South Africa and four smaller adjoining nations.

An estimated 3.5 million people in these countries are living with HIV. The rate of infection can be as high as 25 percent of all adults. That contrasts with the United States which has five times the population but only an estimated 750,000 people infected with HIV.

Charles Heimbald, Jr., the chief operating officer of BMS, invited others to join in this pub-



Grace Mnguni of Friends for Life

lic-private partnership "extending and enhancing the lives of women and children with HIV/AIDS." It will fund grants for medical research appropriate for Africa and "improve patient education and community support."

The Moorehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta and the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston will help train medical professionals through a series of exchange programs.

BMS manufactures ddI (Videx), d4T (Zerit), and hydroxyurea used in the treatment of HIV. It is the third largest pharmaceutical company in the United

States with first quarter profits of \$1.07 billion, up 15 percent over last year.

Its expanded access programs provided drugs to 3,300 PWAs in 1998. The wholesale value of those drugs was approximately \$10 million. By contrast, the *New York Times* reported that Heimbald received a total of \$146 million in compensation last year.

American AIDS advocates praised the company's Africa initiative. But there also was dissension.

"This is a cynical public relations ploy by a company that is fighting to maintain its monopolies on government-funded HIV drugs," charged James Love, director of the Ralph Nader-affiliated Consumer Project on Technology. The company's AIDS drugs are made under patents held by the NIH and Yale University.

The World Health Assembly meets in May to debate compulsory licensing of essential medicines in poor countries. Heimbald opposed the idea, saying, "Compulsory licensing ends research and ends all hope for future advances based on research."

Eric Sawyer, representing POZ magazine and with ACT UP/New York, pressed Heimbald on the issue. "We've been informed by

representatives of the Thai and South African governments that your company has engaged in lawsuits against those governments and against those generic drug companies" to prevent local production of equivalent drugs that would be affordable within those nations.

"I think where there is a fire, the worst thing to do is get into a big battle with the fire department," Heimbald said. "And the fire department, in the case of AIDS, are the pharmaceutical companies. They are the ones who are producing the medicines."

"Will you drop the lawsuit against the companies in Thailand and South Africa that have been trying to produce generic versions of ddI?" asked Sawyer. "Or licensing them to produce it for you at a more affordable price?"

"We don't comment on any pending litigation," Heimbald replied.

In April, Reuters reported that Vice President Al Gore has strong-armed the South African government with the threat of trade sanctions and benefits, on behalf of the pharmaceutical industry.

Nader has charged that Gore is more interested in campaign contributions from the pharmaceutical industry than he is with people getting access to life-saving drugs. ▼

Zimbabwe Methodists expel Banana after sodomy

by S. Predrag

Zimbabwe's former president, Canaan Banana, a reverend of the Methodist Church, has been defrocked following his recent conviction on charges of sodomy and sexual assault.

The head of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Bishop Farai Chirisa, told journalists in Harare that Banana has been kicked out of the priesthood by a decision of the church elders.

"He is no longer a minister because of what happened. ... The church took such a decision," said Chirisa, who added that Banana "can never become a minister of a church again."

"As far as we are concerned," underlined the bishop, "it is a dead issue and we are not prepared to discuss it any further."

Banana, 63, was sentenced on January 18 to 10 years in jail for homosexual assaults. However, the High Court in Harare suspended nine years of the sentence under the condition that he pay compensation to some of his numerous victims and does not commit the same offense during the next three years.

The Methodist minister and father of four grown children was found guilty, among other charges, of two counts of sodomy — one involving his former security aide, Jetha Dube, and a job-seeker, Ernest Ngwenya.

Banana committed most of the offenses in question in the seven years when he was president of Zimbabwe, from April 1980, when the country gained its independence, until 1987.

Four years were suspended on

the condition that Banana pays \$250,000 (about \$12,000 U.S.) in compensation to Dube, and to the family of a fellow policeman whom Dube murdered.

The scandal involving the former president erupted in February 1997, during Dube's trial.

At the time, Dube, a soccer player and policeman, was sentenced to 10 years in jail for the 1995 murder of fellow police officer Patrick Mashiri, who tauntingly called him "Banana's wife."

Later, Dube claimed Banana raped him in the library of the Statehouse, after drugging him. The court heard testimony from witnesses such as Banana's cook, gardener, and others with similar experiences and accusations.

Banana rejected all the accusations, saying that there was a "conspiracy" against him. He also appealed to the Harare court, claiming that negative pre-trial publicity in the media had prejudiced his right to a fair hearing.

Shopping and f***ing

Although Banana escaped the country just days before Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku convicted him in absentia of 11 charges of sodomy, attempted sodomy, and indecent assault, the former president eventually came back and was placed under house arrest.

However, he apparently was not under house arrest for long: this reporter ran into him a couple of times in the shops of Mt. Pleasant, a Harare suburb, signaling that he did not spend a single night in prison.

In the meantime, the Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) leader, Keith Goddard, sent an open letter to Banana after he at-

tacked homosexuality as "deviant, abominable, and wrong behaviour."

"You should hang your head in shame. ... As an African elder and as a man of the cloth," said Goddard in his letter, "you are expected to act with integrity."

Pointing out that "deviant behaviour is that which harms others," Goddard asked, "why should a consensual sexual relationship between two people of the same sex be abominable when it is fulfilling and socially constructive?"

Goddard also accused Banana of castigating homosexuals when he has been "convicted of engaging in homosexual activity [himself]" and added that "to describe [his] own kind as deviant and abominable is to define [himself] as a sell-out."

He reminded Banana that "rumours of [his] homosexuality have abounded within the gay community for many years" and accused him of reinforcing prejudice against homosexuals and encouraging the persecution of homosexuals in Zimbabwe.

"Nevertheless, we have consistently maintained a policy never to out people, believing this to be highly dangerous in a homophobic climate which borders on hysteria," claimed Goddard, who attacked the former president for having "the audacity to contribute to the hate campaign against us."

Banana was ordained as a minister of the Methodist Church in England in 1962 after obtaining his diploma in theology in Epworth, near Harare.

The former president and reverend has not contested the church decision to defrock him, at least not thus far. ▼

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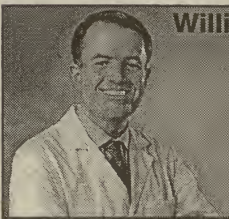
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Wheels of Fortune, Part Four: Inside Pallotta TeamWorks

by Jim Provenzano

The cultivated image of AIDS Rides is one of diverse crowds lining rural byways to cheer victorious athletes who are giving their all for a good cause, but one former employee of the company that produces the events says a good look into the inner workings might dampen some of the cheering.

John Haley worked as Ride representative and recruitment director for the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride in 1996, and advised on the California Ride 3 and the Boston-NY AIDS Ride in 1997. He worked at the Chicago office through November of 1998.

Now he describes the years working for AIDS Ride founder Dan Pallotta in blunt terms: "I

was under his spell."

In an interview from his home in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park, Illinois, Haley recalled the controversies that arose about the AIDS Ride, and how his employers at Pallotta and Associates dealt with them.

"We were never alerted when there was negative press," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The company riders would call and tell us, asking about how to respond to criticism. Then the same thing happened down in Florida."

"The first big problem was Philly," he said of the 1997 financial dispute that resulted in a court-ordered fine of \$110,000. Pallotta and Associates (also known in some years as Pallotta TeamWorks) paid it, but denied any wrongdoing. Then, according to Haley, the company attempted to subtract that loss as an expense in other rides.

Haley says employees were told by Chicago Ride Director Dee Dee Holt "not to 'throw fuel on a fire.' Her approach was a non-response."

But even the brochure that Haley delivered to riders contained conflicting figures. "We got the rider portfolio," Haley said. "Every participant gets a folder on how to prepare for the Ride and fundraise. But when those came out on Ride 3, the background section included different figures. There was a difference of \$5 million within our own publication."

Haley inquired with National Director of Rides Kevin Honeycutt, but received no response. "There were a lot of questions about what was going on."

Haley left on disability due to a back injury, then was turned down when he re-applied for work with the company after 12 weeks. He believes his dismissal may have been a result of his growing discomfort with the way Pallotta's company operated.

Since then, he has made it his mission to do what he calls "exposing the Rides for what they are." He says his research has revealed budgets bloated with "amazingly high salaries" — and lots of them. Among the positions are a publications editor, a national accountant, a corporate sponsorship director, an advertising director, two national logistics managers and their assistants, as well as communications assistants and volunteer coordinators, "plus the budget for the local staff." On the local end, there are full-time coordinators in each city.

Paying so many employees for a familiar recurring event strikes Haley as excessive. "This is a Ride that's been going on for years," he pointed out. "The route, campsites, and pit stops are all set, but they [have continually] added and billed for additional salaries."

Haley said he tried to alleviate some of the regional costs of producing the events and Tent Cities. "We would make suggestions, offering to find people to make donations. Efforts like that were met with indifference."

In seeking work with other charities, Haley mentioned one representative of the American Heart Association was shocked at the figures from AIDS Rides. "If the cost of fundraising is higher than 30 percent, they won't do it. When I told people I had worked on the AIDS Ride, people with AIDS service organizations said

the Ride was not regarded highly. Some agencies viewed it as something that hurt their ability to raise funds."

However, the money keeps rolling in to Pallotta. As a for-profit company it is not required to open its books, but Haley says his research shows "in Texas [in 1998] he made \$280,000, and for the midwestern Ride and its collective of beneficiaries he'd collected a combined production fee of \$450,000. And his 'good' events, at least by his standards of netting 45 or 55 percent, brought in another \$900,000 in production fees."

Haley said he referred a developer of a child services group in Milwaukee to Pallotta, who offered her a \$33,000 fee. "This is for an event that had a gross of \$50,000. She was speechless. Since then, they hired another local company for \$15,000."

To Haley, "there's a difference between making a good living and making a half a million a year." While he admits that the original concept of an AIDS Ride is smart, he questions the cost. "How many years does this good idea justify his making this kind of money?"

A firm foundation

To a representative of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), how much Dan Pallotta's firm makes is not the issue.

Gustavo Suárez, SFAF director of communications, told the *B.A.R.* this week that the foundation's history has no such financial problems or confusion with the company, and considers the California AIDS Ride an unequivocal success. The Los Angeles-San Francisco trek has expanded annually from its original 500 riders to 2,500.

"In terms of dollars and rider participation, this much is obvious," Suárez said. "With a larger amount of riders, that's why it's so successful. The success of the event depends on the people you draw."

Suárez agrees with those who cite low turnout of participants as reason for the recent financial problems of other Rides. "If you don't draw enough riders it doesn't work. We're in a fortunate position because with the riders we've had, we get more and more people. Registration is closing earlier every year. Slots are filled much sooner."

Another reason for the regional problems was possibly even homophobia. "We're not confronting as hostile an environment as perhaps other rides are," said Suárez.

"The public here as a whole is more progressive, so support is greater. The challenge we're facing here is not what some organizations face."

He also mentioned that many first efforts lose money due to inexperience, and should be overcome with experience. Still, he admits that "if some rides have a bad first go, it sort of puts a cloud over it."

But do groups like SFAF have any sort of sympathy for AIDS service organizations (ASOs) who now vow to find other producers?

"Pallotta runs a business," he said. "You contract that service or not. You enter into it in as clear-eyed a fashion as you can."

Suárez considers other failed Rides as unfortunate exceptions.

"We're not the only AIDS Ride that's successful," he said. "It's important that every ASO really think before entering into any contract with a producer."

A contract that loses money won't happen in San Francisco, he said. "There are strong fiscal controls for us. As to what will work and what will not, possibly smaller organizations don't have the infrastructure to evaluate these events."

'Slick accounting'

Haley, however, believes that the problem is not with small groups, but with his former employer, whom he believes consistently overcharges for his services.

He recounted ways that he believes Pallotta's accountants shifted donations and income. The contracts, he alleges, often stipulate that Pallotta and Associates receive a bonus if a Ride cuts costs; although that sounds good, he told the *B.A.R.* that the illusion of cost-cutting can be created by making some collected money into "negative cost" instead of income. "On accounting for cash sponsorships, Tanqueray will pay \$10,000 to \$15,000," Haley said. "Instead of that being counted as income or revenue, they count that money as a negative expenditure. They subtract it from expenses, not adding it to profit." The shift doesn't end there: every rider's \$45 registration fee is subtracted from costs rather than added to profit. That alone knocks \$112,500 from the "costs" of the California Ride, allowing Pallotta to demand a substantial bonus for his company.

"If the cost were below 43 percent, he would get a \$50,000 [extra] fee," Haley alleged. "That is income that doesn't go to AIDS charities."

"It's a slick accounting method," he said, and one that bombed in Philly. Haley said that after paying the fine, but denying any fault, Pallotta and Associates "even appealed to the Pennsylvania Attorney General that \$110,000 fine be included in the cost of their Ride."

One thing that Pallotta's fee is not linked to, apparently, is the overall success of fundraising. "Pallotta's production fee for Boston [in 1998] is listed as \$198,000," Haley told the *B.A.R.* "That's a 10 percent increase on this Ride — during the worst year he's had yet for net dollars on these events."

Haley also said he "was outraged" by Executive Director Chris Cole's remarks that a 15 percent return is "a good investment" for an AIDS Ride, when Cole compared the low net proceeds to investing in the stock market.

"Their attitude is they want all the credit when a Ride is successful," Haley said, "but not willing to take the flack for failures."

What does he think should be done? "I would like to see some accountability. Force them to open the books. These [beneficiary] agencies should get together and say, 'You have to reduce these costs or we're not going to do these Rides.'"

'The way philanthropy works'

Haley knows many will hesitate to criticize any lucrative source; SFAF is only one group

COMMUNITY NEWS



Bent spokes-person: Former Pallotta TeamWorks employee John Haley

that depends upon the Rides to bring in a substantial portion of their annual budgets.

"They're like heroin addicts," Haley said of some ASOs. "They know it's bad, but the thought of giving it up is too painful."

SFAF's Suárez calls such claims unfounded. "If it wasn't a good working relationship we wouldn't be doing business with them." Despite the history of other Rides, he said the California AIDS Ride remains a financial success and great public relations for the cause.

"Suddenly a topic that people are loathe to discuss is on the front page," he said. "That is a tremendous boon. The underlying story is that these people are caring and working to alleviate suffering caused by AIDS. They're also keeping America aware of

this epidemic."

Suárez referred to the many mainstream TV stories about the Ride, and how the uplifting image of cyclists remembering loved ones does raise awareness for AIDS in a time of decreasing government funding and philanthropic donations.

According to Funders Concerned About AIDS, a consortium of foundation board members, the number of funders granting \$50,000 or more each year to HIV/AIDS declined 22 percent over a three-year survey period (1997-1999). This may be why some ASOs are hesitant to criticize any efforts to raise funds.

"People do not seem to give otherwise," said Suárez. "They need this. When the benefit is expensive to put on, they raise a lot of money. This is the way philan-

thropy works. We would not raise this money otherwise."

But Haley asks, "Is it worth so much? As if a little kid seeing a bunch of people ride by on bikes is worth the same as having an educator do a safe sex demonstration in urban schools?"

And with so many other AIDS organizations coming under scrutiny by groups like the Accountability Project, should the largest producer of AIDS fundraising events remain immune to such questions simply because of its for-profit status?

For Haley, it's a definite no. "As far as Wisconsin goes, there was blatant corruption going on there," he said. "Pallotta claimed to be giving the Wisconsin ASOs a break of \$50,000 on his usual production fee and only charged them \$110,000, but I have a copy of his budget that he proposed to the beneficiaries in Wisconsin. He turned around and billed them for partial salaries of several of his national office staffers. These are the people he claims he has to pay out of his exorbitant production fees whenever the high fees are questioned. So he reduces the fee in Wisconsin by \$50,000, but then bills them about \$52,000 in salaries and health benefits in the budget."

This could neither be confirmed nor denied. Pallotta's Los Angeles-based public relations firm Bragman, Nyman & Cafarelli, has yet to arrange for any AIDS Ride officials to respond to requests for interviews with any representatives from Pallotta TeamWorks or primary sponsor Tanqueray. Even basic questions made to the San Francisco office of the AIDS Ride about the role of the advertised 700 volunteers needed for the opening ceremonies was referred to the Hollywood PR firm's offices.

Haley is not the only person curious about the reason for all the secrecy. He wonders, "If there's nothing wrong with them making so much, why do they refuse to tell how much it is?" ▼

Next week: part five looks at options and alternatives.

Bathhouses

◀ page 5

means for changing policy, including referenda, the courts, and petitioning agencies. Health Watch affirmed that bathhouse advocates are indeed pursuing several political and legal avenues.

Privacy advocates have had minimal success in convincing the Health Commission to take up the sex club regulations. Brown stated that if the commission has heard the arguments and has decided not to address the issue, he would not order them to do so. He said that if privacy advocates had been petitioning the Health Commission for two years and "not one member of the jury wishes to hear any more," perhaps the advocates "need to rethink" their position.

Following the meeting, Attyah said he was "very sad that today the mayor turned this into a discussion of the political process and clearly deflected concerns about AIDS hysteria and AIDS prevention.... He tried to take the issue off his plate."

'Reactionary prevention'

The bathhouse issue has once again come to the fore in the past few months; the regulations have not received so much attention since the six months after their formal implementation in the

spring of 1997.

A coalition made up of members of Health Watch, Community United for Sexual Privacy (CUSP), Queer Nation, and ACT UP/San Francisco have been meeting since March, when Katz and Dana Van Gorder, coordinator of lesbian and gay health services for the DPH, held a public forum on the sex club regulations.

Some members of this group last Monday unveiled a ballot initiative – the Sexually Transmitted Disease Reduction Initiative – that calls for allowing private spaces in sex clubs and bathhouses. They have until July 2 to gather 10,200 valid signatures to put the measure on the November 2 ballot. Initiative proponents contend that the city's sex club regulations are applied to gay sex establishments in a discriminatory manner. According to Michael Petrelis, who filed papers for the initiative with the city's Department of Elections, "We want to increase the venues for gay men to engage in consensual safer sex, including sodomy. Opposing the bathhouse ballot initiative is tantamount to sleeping with Jesse Helms and Pete Knight, homophobic politicians all too happy with San Francisco's reactionary AIDS prevention policies."

In April, bathhouse privacy advocates brought their case before the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC), a commu-

nity-based group charged with developing prevention priorities. The HPPC will hold a meeting on June 3 to discuss the issue of sex club and bathhouse regulations. Health Commission President Lee Ann Monfredini has indicated that if the HPPC makes a favorable recommendation, the commission may hold a hearing on the issue.

The renewed attention to sex clubs and bathhouses has spurred editorials and political cartoons in the mainstream press, including an *Examiner* cartoon featuring a bathhouse proponent skipping through a cemetery, and an editorial in the May 6 *Chronicle* that called the bathhouse initiative "an absurd proposal that defies reason in a city that has witnessed the city's gay community decimated by AIDS." Health Watch asserts that such depictions "propagate the myth that gay men want to screw themselves to death," and asked Brown to "speak out publicly against this kind of AIDS hysteria, misinformation, and homophobia." ▼

The next meeting of the sex club/bathhouse coalition will be held this Sunday, May 16, at 6 pm at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, located at 150 Eureka Street. Health Watch may be contacted at HlthWSF@aol.com.

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HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED

San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council seeks members. The Council sets priorities for Ryan White CARE Act funds received by the City and County of San Francisco to provide HIV health services in San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties. There is no compensation for service.

To obtain an application or for more information on how to apply please call Membership Co-Chair Chris Boehm at (415) 487-5777 x17. Persons living with HIV/AIDS, people of color, women, youth and members of the LGBT communities are strongly encouraged to apply.



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Members of Ron Wilmot's family were joined by Supervisors Mark Leno and Gavin Newsome and some 70 other bike riders on May 8 for the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride through Golden Gate Park, benefitting Project Inform. The pedal pushers raised more than \$69,000 for the project's educational programs.

AIDS cases

◀ page 1

ly broadcasting the latest numbers. In fact, it isn't easy to tell if they have been aware of the trend; last week Mayor Willie Brown issued a news release with the inaccurate statement, "Statistics show the number of AIDS cases is increasing here."

Schwarz told the *Bay Area Reporter* that is incorrect, and she didn't know where the mayor or his staff got that impression that AIDS cases are on the rise.

'Unclear factually'

San Francisco Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz reiterated the declining number of AIDS cases Monday, May 10 when he delivered his State of the City Public Health address to the Board of Supervisors. In that document, Katz said AIDS cases have been declining since 1992 and deaths have been decreasing since 1995, but that doesn't mean the epidemic is over.

"AIDS continued to be the leading cause of preventable death in San Francisco, as measured by the expected number of years lost in a person's life who dies from the disease," said Katz. "Due to improved treatment, the number of persons living with AIDS is increasing. Declines in the number of AIDS cases have not been as great among women, youth, and persons of color, indicating unmet needs in the area of HIV prevention."

But among people of color, they are declining in all ethnic groups except Latinos. According to the quarterly surveillance report for January through March of this year, of the 62 AIDS cases diagnosed, 32 were white, 11 were African-American, 17 Latino, and two Asian/Pacific Islander. For the same period in 1998, of the 69 diagnosed AIDS cases, 42 were white, 13 were African-American, 11 were Latino, and three were Asian/Pacific Islander. For the same three-month period in 1997, of the 82 AIDS cases diagnosed, 51 were white, 16 were African-American, 13 were Latino, and two were Asian/Pacific Islander.

Bill Barnes, the mayor's HIV/AIDS policy advisor, told the *B.A.R.* that his office didn't put together the mayor's press release, but that he has gotten calls about the discrepancy and has talked with the mayor about it.

"While a bit unclear factually," he said, "what the mayor was trying to say is that the cumulative number of AIDS cases in San Francisco keeps going up."

AIDS activist Michael Petrelis is one unhappy activist who contacted the office about the inaccuracy. "The mayor said AIDS is increasing and then Dr. Katz said AIDS is decreasing," he complained. "Which is it and where is the science?"

"Mayor Brown and Dr. Katz should follow the recommendation of the AIDS Summit of January 1998 [preliminary report] that says 'We recommend that researchers make greater efforts to

disseminate the results of their work in the community, especially any research findings that could assist in designing prevention programs."

'Give me data'

All health workers interviewed for this article focused on prevention, because it alone affects the number of HIV infections each year. The drop in reported cases is only of full-blown AIDS, not HIV infection, in an era when aggressive anti-viral intervention is believed to delay the onset of opportunistic infections that form the basis for an AIDS diagnosis. As Schwarz pointed out, it isn't the same as lower rates of HIV infection.

"All of our evidence suggests HIV cases are not declining," she stated.

DPH estimates some 15,000 San Franciscans are living with HIV, and 8,162 have been diagnosed with full-blown AIDS.

Because of privacy concerns and political wrangling, it is virtually impossible to get an accurate number of annual HIV seroconversions, but the city's HIV Consensus Report estimates 500 new infections in San Francisco each year. A letter from former AIDS Office Director of Prevention Barry Brinkley in 1998 outlined 540 positive test results at the city's eight HIV testing sites over the previous year, from 16,561 people tested. The Urban Health Study and the Forensic HIV Project had the highest percentage of positive tests, with nearly one in 10, while the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic had less than two in 100 testing positive. The Special Program for Youth had a rate of 7.5 percent.

Shawn O'Hearn, a member of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC) told the *B.A.R.* that the number of seroconversions used by health officials is "completely pulled out of thin air." He said that a report issued by Brinkley, as the HIV prevention director, stated there were 1,500 seroconversions a year. "Obviously, there's no formula here," O'Hearn said, adding he's been relentless in trying to get raw data from DPH. "I question all percentages and I got really adamant. I don't want percentages without raw data."

O'Hearn said raw data is needed so that prevention planners can appropriately spend the \$9.8 million in federal, state, and local HIV prevention funds. ▼

First in a Series

Who says AIDS is an epidemic?

For nearly two decades our government, media and medical establishment has been relentless in promoting a new plague called AIDS. We are told that no one is safe, that numbers are growing, and that drugs and vaccines offer our only hope for salvation. However, a careful examination of the facts suggests that the public has been misled. What we have experienced for twenty years is not a sexually transmitted epidemic but a tragic medical mistake. Scientific and statistical evidence shows that AIDS is not a new contagious disease or viral epidemic and that well known non-contagious factors are what make people sick.

AIDS: Old Diseases = New Plague

Contrary to popular belief, AIDS is not a new disease. AIDS is a new name given by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to a collection of 29 old illnesses and conditions including yeast infection, diarrhea, cancer, pneumonia and tuberculosis. These illnesses and conditions are called AIDS only when they occur in a person who also has certain protective, disease-fighting proteins called antibodies in their blood. Prior to the CDC's invention of the AIDS category, most of these old diseases were neither reported nor tracked as infectious.

CDC: A History of Fear and Failure

Before bringing us AIDS, officials at the CDC attempted to sound similar alarms over "non-existent" or relatively small problems. Fearful of possible funding cuts, government scientists became more concerned with justifying their budgets than serving public interest.

Rather than being the result of meticulous scientific research, HIV is the by-product of a previous government sponsored health program — the failed search for a sexually transmitted cancer virus. Launched in the 1960s, America's War on Cancer was led by an army of federally employed virologists who focused exclusively on finding a retrovirus as the contagious cause. Twenty billion dollars and twenty years of effort in this single-minded direction produced no proof for infectious cancer and resulted in an overly-funded bureaucracy of virologists with nothing much to do. What the CDC failed to tell the public was that retroviruses were found to have no cell killing mechanisms (HIV is said to be a retrovirus), and that in industrialized nations like the United States, less than 1% of what makes us sick is contagious.

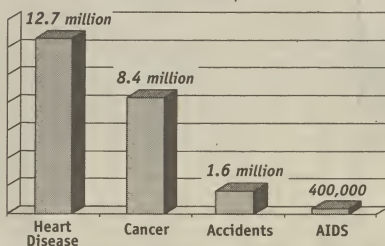
So Where's The Epidemic?

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, an epidemic is defined as "an outbreak of a contagious disease that spreads rapidly, grows quickly and is widely prevalent." In twenty years, CDC statistics show that AIDS has not spread outside the original risk groups of individuals harmed by long-term recreational and pharmaceutical drug use. New U.S. AIDS cases have been declining among all races, sexes, sexual orientations and ages since 1993. Deaths from AIDS in America have been dropping since 1995, have always been a fraction of annual deaths from cancer, and have numbered less each year than deaths from accidents. Despite media attempts to portray AIDS as making inroads into previously unaffected groups of people, the truth is that heterosexuals, women and teenagers comprise few AIDS cases and are not at risk for HIV.

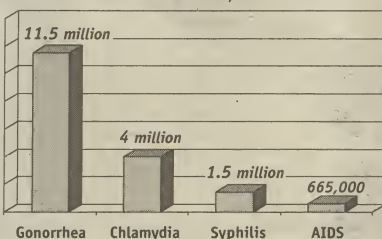
Unreliable estimates, not unprotected sex, are the real cause of growing AIDS numbers. While the World Health Organization (WHO) quietly reports 1.8 million actual AIDS cases as the twenty year global total, they promote the harrowing *estimate* of 13 million AIDS cases worldwide. Most liberally applied to Africa and developing nations, these estimates are cited by the media and AIDS organizations as real numbers to fuel AIDS hysteria and create a seemingly unparalleled health threat. For example, a recent news report claimed "a Kenyan dies of AIDS every three minutes" — however, if this WHO estimate were true there would be more Kenyans dead from AIDS in one year (175,200) than the total number of AIDS cases ever reported in Kenya (74,800). The fact is 99% of people living on the African continent do not have AIDS.

Although "AIDS" has become synonymous with "epidemic," one of the last truly devastating contagious outbreaks was the flu of 1919 that killed 20 million people worldwide in a single year. In comparison, the global total for AIDS cases is less than 2 million for twenty years, and many of the people counted as AIDS cases are still alive and healthy. Has responsible, factual reporting become another casualty in our war on AIDS? Coming up next...a critical look at HIV — is anyone really positive?

**Cumulative Deaths
1981 to 1997, USA**



**Contagious STDs vs. AIDS
1981 to 1997, USA**



AIDS in Perspective: Over the past 20 years AIDS has affected few Americans compared to other diseases. (Source: CDC Wonder and STD Surveillance)

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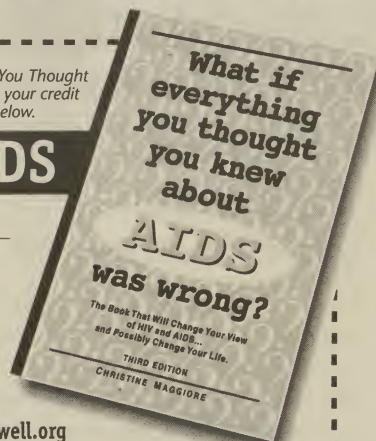
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Is it a good itch or a bad itch?

*If you have reason to worry about STDs,
you have reason to get examined*

by Larry Hanbrook,
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

Itch, burn, drip, and to some extent, bump. That's what many of us look for when we think we might have been exposed to a sexually transmitted disease (STD). We look for anything funny in our nether regions. The problem is, many STDs don't always have symptoms. You can't count on those nasty signs of infection to let you know your health needs tending. If you have reason to think you might have been exposed to an STD and are concerned about it, you should get yourself checked out regularly, regardless of whether you itch, burn, drip, or have bumps. Details on how to do that are below.

Prevention of and early treatment for STDs is healthier, more cost effective and epidemiologically sound. The sooner an STD is treated, the easier it is to treat, the lower the chance that you will develop serious complications that can seriously endanger your health, and the fewer people you're likely to infect with it. Examining STDs and their relationship to HIV, itself an STD, we find a complex inter-relationship. Two of the more obvious areas where STDs impact HIV are: transmission and treatment. That is, the effect of STDs on HIV transmission; and the health effect of a co-infection of HIV and an STD, and the treatment difficulties of co-infections. In this article, we will examine STDs' effects on transmission; in a later article we will examine the treatment complexities of co-infection.

To simplify this discussion on transmission, let us agree we're talking about a situation where one partner is HIV-negative and the other is HIV-positive. STDs can affect transmission in two ways: either by making someone more infectious or making the other person more susceptible to infection. In other words, they can make it easier for the positive partner to transmit more HIV; and can also make the negative partner more vulnerable to HIV.

The more obvious path for the positive partner to infect a negative partner is visible: sores and ulcerative lesions, which often accompany herpes and syphilis. In the HIV-infected person, HIV is often found in the "exudate" (that is, the goop that comes out) of genital

ulcers; those sores often bleed more easily, and are often in places where they can easily come into contact with mucosal membranes during sex, if no barriers are used.

Another link between STD infection and HIV infectiousness, possibly less apparent but more pervasive, is the resulting increase in a person's HIV viral load during a co-infection. In fact, one study showed that in HIV-infected men, a gonorrhea infection increases HIV RNA in semen tenfold, and treatment for the gonorrhea rapidly reduces this increase to previous levels. Since STDs not only make it easier to "shed" the virus through sores, but also can increase the viral load in semen, and STD treatment can bring that viral load back down, it is logical to conclude that STD treatment and prevention for those who are HIV-infected can also be a way to reduce the risk of spreading HIV.

The other shoe in this equation is on the foot of the HIV-negative partner. Regardless of the STD status of his positive partner, if the negative partner has an STD he might be more susceptible to HIV infection. Again, lesions are obvious routes of transmission. But aside from lesions, there is reason to think that even "nonulcerative" STDs, such as gonorrhea or chlamydia, can cause problems. An STD infection will attract CD4+ lymphocytes to the site. It is known that in women, these STDs attract CD4+ cells to the endocervix; it is likely the same type of CD4+ activity is occurring at the infection sites in men, such as the urethra, rectum, or throat. Since HIV is attracted to and likely to infect CD4+ cells, the STD infection with its attendant CD4+ increase might provide a convenient mechanism for HIV infection.

The membranes in the anus, urethra, throat, and vagina work very well at neutralizing most contagions much of the time (including HIV), but the lining must be healthy and unbroken to work as a natural barrier. However, when an STD is present the increase in local CD4+ lymphocytes can lead to inflammation, which often disrupts the integrity of the lining in one's throat, urethra, cervix, or rectum, resulting in a

compromised natural barrier. A compromised natural barrier, full of CD4+ cells, is a good place for an HIV infection to take hold. That is what one published study finds - a study of the endocervix. Nothing has been published on this mechanism in men who have sex with men. Obviously, further studies of this mechanism needs to be studied in this population.

Still, although these phenomena might be occurring and fostering new HIV infections, not all exposure sites pose equal risk. Frequency and duration of exposure are crucially important.

That's one reason that anal exposures are often considered riskier than oral exposures: in the rectum, the semen can possibly remain for a longer period of time on the site. In oral exposures, the semen is often swallowed or spit, not sitting in one spot. While there is risk involved in an oral exposure, the fact that the semen does not linger lowers the chances of an oral exposure making a good infection rate.

To test the hypothesis that STDs play a role in increased HIV infection, two intervention trials were conducted. These trials show conflicting results for (perhaps) explainable reasons. One trial, in Tanzania, provided drugs for STDs, and trained health providers to aggressively treat symptomatic STDs. Six communities, so provided, were compared with six matched control communities, who had no such provisions. The first group showed 38 percent fewer new HIV infections after six months. What's more, sexual behavior and condom use did not change in those groups, indicating that this result is more likely due solely to STD treatment.

In interesting contrast, another study, also in Africa, was conducted in Uganda. This one was different: offering intermittent, mass HIV treatment regardless of the presence of symptoms - but administered in a blinded fashion only every 10 months: some areas would get placebo, some would get treatment. The study showed no difference in new HIV infection rates between the two groups, although by the end there was a notable difference in numbers of curable STDs.

There are two standard explanations for the apparent discrepancy between the results of the two studies. One reason focuses on the intervention itself, highlighting that continuous efforts to treat STDs, such as in the Tanzania study, may be more effective than treating STDs only intermittently, as in Uganda. The other reason has to do with the stage of the epidemic, which were very different in the two areas. The area of Tanzania where the study was held, Mwanza, was relatively early in the epidemic, and only about 4 percent of the community was infected with HIV. The stage of the epidemic was much later in Ugan-



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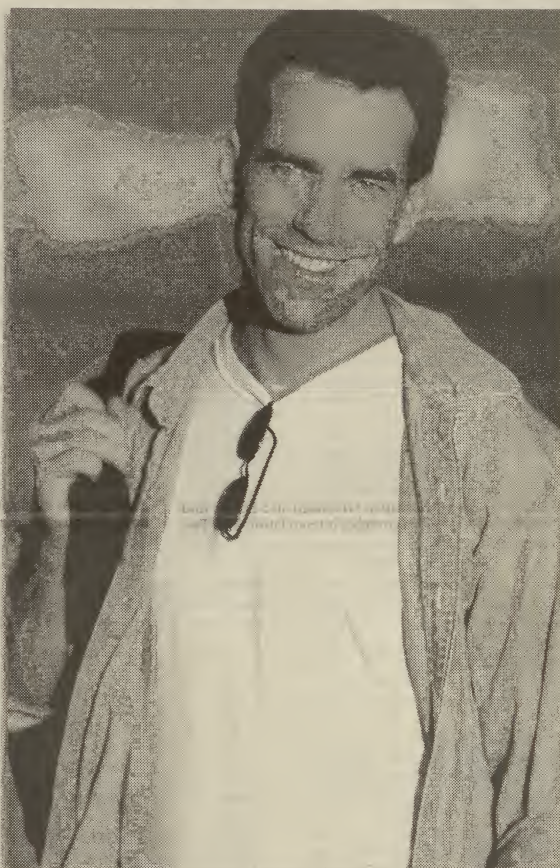
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SEROSTIM rebuilds LBM and improves physical performance while reducing body fat. Studies show that without the LBM you need, you could become weaker, get sick more often and may not live as long as people who are not losing lean body mass; although the clinical significance of treatment-induced weight gain and increasing LBM have not been established. Physical performance was assessed by treadmill exercise testing. Grip strength, another measure of muscle performance may decline, probably due to increased tissue fullness, which sometimes occurs with growth hormone. Subjective assessment of performance was measured in a nine-point questionnaire. SEROSTIM showed significant improvements on two points—change in appearance and overall benefit of therapy—while results of the other measures were inconclusive. Patients who continue to lose weight in their first two weeks of therapy should be reevaluated.



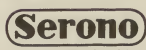
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One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM

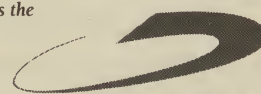
noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

Wasting is treatable. See your doctor or call the SEROSTIM Access Line at 800-714-2437 to find out about SEROSTIM'S solution.



*Serostim is an anabolic and anticatabolic agent that works by interacting with specific receptors on a variety of cell types. For additional information about Serostim, please refer to the brief summary on the next page.

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BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Serostim® [somatotropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia. This indication is based on analyses of surrogate endpoints in studies of up to 12 weeks in duration. Concomitant anti-viral therapy is necessary (see PRECAUTIONS: General). The continued use of Serostim treatment should be reevaluated in patients who continue to lose weight in the first two weeks of treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Serostim is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

PRECAUTIONS: General: Serostim therapy should be carried out under the regular guidance of a physician who is experienced in the diagnosis and management of AIDS. Inadequate nutritional intake, malabsorption and hypogonadism, which are common in individuals with AIDS and which may contribute to catabolism and weight loss, should also be monitored and treated.

HIV and Growth Hormone Considerations: In some experimental systems, recombinant human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been shown to potentiate HIV replication in vitro at concentrations ranging from 50-250 ng/ml. There was no increase in virus production when the antiretroviral agents, zidovudine, didanosine or lamivudine were added to the culture medium. Additional in vitro studies have shown that r-hGH does not interfere with the antiviral activity of zalcitabine or stavudine. In the controlled clinical trials, no significant growth hormone-associated increase in viral burden was observed. However, the protocol required all participants to be on concomitant nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of the study. In view of the potential for acceleration of virus replication, it is recommended that HIV+ patients be maintained on nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of Serostim treatment.

Increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly in the hands and feet) and musculoskeletal discomfort (pain, swelling and/or stiffness) may occur during treatment with Serostim, but may resolve spontaneously, with analgesic therapy, or after reducing the frequency of dosing (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Carpal tunnel syndrome may occur during treatment with Serostim. If the symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome do not resolve by decreasing the weekly number of doses of Serostim, it is recommended that treatment be discontinued.

Patients should be informed that allergic reactions are possible and that prompt medical attention should be sought if an allergic reaction occurs. None of the 188 study participants with AIDS wasting who were evaluable for antibody assessments and who were treated with Serostim for the first time developed detectable antibodies to growth hormone (> 4 pg binding). Patients were not rechallenged.

Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been associated with acute pancreatitis.

Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. Serostim use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Patients with other risk factors for glucose intolerance should be monitored closely during Serostim therapy.

No cases of intracranial hypertension (IH) have been observed among patients with AIDS wasting treated with Serostim. The syndrome of IH, with papilledema, visual changes, headache, and nausea and/or vomiting has been reported in a small number of children with growth failure treated with growth hormone products. Nevertheless, funduscopic evaluation of patients is recommended at the initiation and periodically during the course of Serostim therapy.

Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and other malignancies are common in HIV+ individuals. There was no increase in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, or in the progression of cutaneous Kaposi's sarcoma in clinical studies of Serostim. Patients with internal KS lesions were excluded from the studies. Potential effects on other malignancies are unknown.

Information For Patients: Patients being treated with Serostim should be informed of the potential benefits and risks associated with treatment. Patients should be instructed to contact their physician should they experience any side effects or discomfort during treatment with Serostim. It is recommended that Serostim be administered using sterile, disposable syringes and needles. Patients should be thoroughly instructed in the importance of proper disposal and cautioned against any reuse of needles and syringes. An appropriate container for the disposal of used syringes and needles should be employed. Patients should be instructed to rotate injection sites to avoid lipodystrophy.

Drug Interactions: Formal in vitro drug interaction studies have not been conducted. No data are available on drug interactions between Serostim and HIV protease inhibitors or the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term animal studies for carcinogenicity have not been performed with Serostim. There is no evidence from animal studies to date of Serostim-induced mutagenicity or impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits. Doses up to 5 to 10 times the human dose, based on body surface area, have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to Serostim. There are, however, no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether Serostim is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Serostim is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: In two small studies, 11 children with HIV associated failure to thrive were treated subcutaneously with human growth hormone. In one study, five children (age range, 6 to 17 years) were treated with 0.04 mg/kg/day for 26 weeks. In a second study, six children (age range, 8 to 14 years) were treated with 0.07 mg/kg/day for 4 weeks. Treatment appeared to be well tolerated in both studies. These preliminary data collected in a limited number of patients with HIV associated failure to thrive appear to be consistent with safety observations in growth hormone treated adults with AIDS wasting.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: In two placebo-controlled clinical trials in which 205 patients were treated with Serostim the most common adverse reactions judged to be associated with Serostim were musculoskeletal discomfort and increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly of the hands and feet) (see PRECAUTIONS: General). These symptoms were generally rated by investigators as mild to moderate in severity and usually subsided with continued treatment. Discontinuations as a result of these events were rare.

Because of the diverse clinical manifestations of AIDS, and the frequent occurrence of adverse events associated with underlying disease process, it was often difficult to distinguish adverse events possibly associated with the administration of Serostim from underlying signs or symptoms of AIDS or associated intercurrent illnesses.

Clinical adverse events which occurred during the first 12 weeks of study in at least 10% of those who received Serostim during the two placebo-controlled trials are listed below by treatment group, without regard to causality assessment.

Table 2: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

Adverse Event	Serostim (n=205)		Placebo (n=150)	
	%		%	
Musculoskeletal discomfort	53.7		33.3	
Fever	31.2		29.3	
Increased tissue turgor	27.3		2.7	
Diarrhea	25.9		20.0	
Neuropathy	25.9		17.3	
Nausea	25.9		16.0	
Headache	19.0		20.7	
Abdominal pain	17.1		18.7	
Fatigue	17.1		16.0	
Leukopenia	15.1		24.7	
Albuminuria	15.1		9.3	
Granulocytopenia	14.1		21.3	
Lymphadenopathy	14.1		16.0	
Increased sweating	14.1		8.7	
Anorexia	12.2		9.3	
Anemia	12.2		8.7	
Vomiting	11.7		12.0	
SGOT increased	11.7		6.0	
Insomnia	11.2		9.3	
Tachycardia	11.2		6.0	
Hyperglycemia	10.2		6.0	
SGPT increased	10.2		5.3	

Adverse events that occurred in 1% to less than 10% of study participants receiving Serostim in the two placebo-controlled clinical efficacy studies are listed below by body system. The list of adverse events has been compiled regardless of causal relationship to Serostim.

Body as a Whole: rigors, flu-like symptoms, back pain, malaise, asthenia, carpal tunnel syndrome (see PRECAUTIONS: General), chest pain, hot flashes, allergic reaction. **Gastrointestinal System:** oral leukoplakia, flatulence, dyspepsia, dry mouth, constipation, ulcerative stomatitis, increased amylase, dysphagia, esophagitis, colitis, pancreatitis, rectal disorder, gastritis, tongue ulceration, gingivitis. **Musculoskeletal System:** muscle weakness. **Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** dizziness, convulsions, hypertonia, neuralgia, tremor, encephalopathy, nystagmus, meningism. **Respiratory System:** dyspnea, coughing, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis, rhinitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, increased sputum, respiratory disorder, bronchospasm, pneumonitis, pleurisy. **White Blood Cell and Reticuloendothelial System Disorders:** cervical lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia. **Skin and Appendages:** skin disorder, folliculitis, rash, alopecia, photosensitivity reaction, erythematous rash, pruritus, abnormal pigmentation, seborrhea, dermatitis, skin ulceration, acne, skin discoloration, verruca. **Psychiatric:** depression, anxiety, somnolence, nervousness, appetite increased, amnesia, abnormal thinking. **Metabolic and Nutritional:** hypertriglyceridemia, increased alkaline phosphatase, dehydration, increased creatine phosphokinase, increased LDH, glycosuria, hypokalemia, cachexia, thirst, acidosis. **Immune System Dysfunction:** moniliasis, bacterial infection, Pneumocystis carinii infection, viral infection, infection, Herpes simplex, sepsis, abscess, fungal infection, Herpes zoster. **Urinary System:** hematuria, urinary tract infection, nocturia. **Liver and Biliary System:** abnormal hepatic function, hepatomegaly, hepatitis. **Vision:** retinitis, abnormal vision, photophobia. **Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting:** thrombocytopenia, purpura. **Cardiovascular, General:** abnormal ECG, heart murmur, hypertension, hypotension. **Application Site:** injection site pain, injection site reaction. **Neoplasms:** Kaposi's sarcoma. **Male Reproductive:** epididymitis, penis disorder, inguinal hernia. **Hearing and Vestibular:** earache, ear disorder, decreasing hearing. **Endocrine:** gynecomastia, male breast pain.

The types and incidences of adverse events reported in an open-label, extension trial and in a single, foreign trial, for up to one year, were not different from, or greater in frequency, than those observed in the primary, placebo-controlled, clinical trials.

OVERDOSAGE

Glucose intolerance can occur with overdosage. Long-term overdosage with growth hormone could result in signs and symptoms of acromegaly.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Serostim® [somatotropin (rDNA origin) for injection] should be administered subcutaneously daily at bedtime according to the following dosage recommendations:

Weight Range	Dose*
>55 kg	6 mg SC daily
45-55 kg	5 mg SC daily
35-45 kg	4 mg SC daily

*Based on an approximate daily dosage of 0.1 mg/kg.

In patients who weigh less than 35 kg, Serostim should be administered at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg subcutaneously daily at bedtime.

Dose reductions for side effects felt to be related to treatment with Serostim, which are unresponsive to symptomatic treatment, may be effected by reducing the total daily dose or the number of doses given per week.

In patients who continue to lose weight at week 2, reevaluate for concurrent opportunistic infections or other clinical events. Injection sites should be rotated.

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

Each vial of Serostim 4 mg, 5 mg or 6 mg is reconstituted with 1 mL sterile water for injection. To reconstitute Serostim, inject the diluent into the vial of Serostim aiming the liquid against the glass vial wall. Swirl the vial with a gentle rotary motion until contents are dissolved completely. The Serostim solution should be clear immediately after reconstitution. **DO NOT INJECT** Serostim if the reconstituted product is cloudy immediately after reconstitution or refrigeration. Occasionally, after refrigeration, small colorless particles may be present in the Serostim solution. This is not unusual for proteins like Serostim.

STABILITY AND STORAGE

Before reconstitution: Serostim should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Expiration dates are stated on product labels.

After reconstitution: Use within 24 hours after reconstitution with diluent. The reconstituted solution should be stored under refrigerated conditions (36° - 46°F/2° - 8°C).

Sterile Diluent, 1 mL (Sterile Water for Injection, USP) should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Avoid freezing vials of Serostim and Sterile Diluent.

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

Serostim vials containing 4 mg (approximately 12 IU) somatotropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.

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February 1999



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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. No poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Winfield (John) Scott
August 17, 1941 — April 26, 1999



John died peacefully in the night at his home in the redwoods of Guerneville, which he shared with his lover Guy Hancock.

For over three years he fought an awe-inspiring and powerful battle against cancer, always managing a smile for friends who came to dinner.

John was a quiet man, a man who was slow to release his secrets, yet he held inside himself an intense passion

for life, and incredible strength to overcome the obstacles put in his way. His passion came out in the kitchen where he was a good old-fashioned, flour-covered baker of cakes and pies. It came out in the garden he created with Guy. It came out in the luxurious clothing he sewed for the women in his family. Most of all it came out when he taught a classroom full of young people. Even during his illness he worked to complete a math degree so that he could expand his teaching skills.

John is survived by his mother, Ellen Scott, and by one sister and several brothers. He will be missed by friends in California and Texas, but he will be missed most by Guy, who will continue to tend the garden.

Hundreds of activists assemble in AIDS lobby of Capitol Hill

by Bob Roehr

An adorable preschooler stood on a stool to one side of Cornelius Baker, the executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), peering over the lectern as Baker said, "I brought a friend with me today." The toddler beamed and waived precociously to the grassroots advocates gathered for AIDSWatch '99, a lobbying effort directed toward Capitol Hill, as Baker said, "We are fighting for our lives. We also are fighting for my friend here."

"The next generation of children shouldn't have this, it shouldn't be a part of their lives. We need to create a world in which it is safe to grow up, to love, to grow old, to live a long and healthy life."

"It really is all about money," he said. Money to prevent new infections and for services to keep people with HIV healthy and alive.

AIDSWatch '99 brought together more than 600 people in Washington May 2-4. A panoply of organizations offered background briefings and role-playing

scenarios to prepare the advocates at the Sunday meeting. On Monday and Tuesday they attacked the Hill.

"Tell your own personal stories, or if that is too painful, tell other people's stories," urged Val Bias of the National Hemophilia Association, in sharing tips on meeting with congressmembers and their staffs.

NAPWA hosted a small dinner on Monday "to say thanks," with special honoree Dr. Mathilde Krim, chair of the Board of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR).

Baker waxed eloquent in praise of Krim. "Her voice has always been so clear, and forthright, and honest, and it has also been so loving of our lives."

He praised Krim and Elizabeth Taylor "in partnership with each other as first among equals. We all depend on you for your guidance, for your resources, and for your tenacity."

Krim lauded the gay community, which united to face the catastrophe of AIDS "at first virtually alone... in devising and paying for the support of the sick and the education of the unwary."

ones which cause lesions, such as herpes, can potentially lead to higher risk of HIV infection than, say, warts. But still, even warts may attract CD4+ cells to the site, and are relatively easy to scratch and bruise, causing a break in the skin. For more information on the various STDs, call or visit City Clinic, or visit their website.

Remember, although many STDs do exhibit symptoms, you cannot rely on symptoms to indicate an infection. It is possible to have an STD and not have a symptom, which is why it is a

good idea to get regular STD checkups if you are sexually active. The itch, burn, drip, and bumps aren't your friends; they can perhaps alert you to a problem, but they make a very poor alarm system - they often just keep quiet until they become a bigger problem. Whether HIV-positive or negative, since STDs can lead to greater chances of spreading HIV infection, it makes sense to have an STD treated quickly, as well as to take precautions to avoid exposing oneself to STDs. ▼

ACT UP

◀ page 26

da, with about 16 percent prevalence. Presented as a possible reason for the differing results, the thinking goes like this: if a community is relatively recently infected, they not only have many of the more sexually active members not yet exposed, but more of those who are infected are likely to be in a very early stage of the disease. We believe those in early infection might be especially infectious. Therefore, in a community, the disease in the earlier stages might spread quickly, due to the large pool of HIV-uninfected sexually active individuals, combined with a group of more-infectious, newly infected potential sex partners. Hence, the population studied in Uganda already had reached a relatively stable incidence rate (rate of new infections), while the population in Tanzania was experiencing an explosion in new infections, which was then greatly reduced in the group which had received the STD treatment.

Clearly, more research needs to be done, in particular in examining the way STDs can facilitate HIV infection, biologically. While the results of these studies cannot be considered conclusive, it is reasonable to consider STD infection a risk factor for HIV transmission. STDs often travel in groups; behaviors that can lead to an infection with one STD are likely to expose you to others. And not all STDs are the same, of course. The

COMMUNITY NEWS

Blossoms of hope



Buyers inspected the thousands of orchids on sale at last weekend's 10th annual OrchidMania. The event garnered nearly \$50,000 for eight AIDS service organizations in the U.S., Chile, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand. All the plants were donated, as was the help from some 60 volunteers. Watch for the September OrchidMania in Berkeley.

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Making change

Federation's new dates, officials, lawsuit

by Jim Provenzano

New dates for Gay Games VI and a change in Federation of Gay Games leadership were some issues heatedly discussed at the organization's meeting in Montreal last month.

"Gay Games VI and Cultural Festival - Under New Skies" will now be held in Sydney, Australia from November 2-9, 2002.

Although the original September dates were to coincide with the end of the northern hemisphere summer, Sydney organizers cited warmer local weather and longer daylight hours as the deciding factors in changing the schedule.

The dates of Gay Games VI may dissuade some tourists or athletes, but Tom Seddon, chair of the Sydney 2002 board, said in a San Francisco interview that Australian weather played a strong part in the date shift, and will prove to be a plus.

Sydney 2002 has already paid a \$25,000 (Australian) licensing fee to begin promoting the event with official Federation approval.

Seddon does not say whether the fee and additional payments are compensation for the debt incurred from the Dutch-organized Gay Games V. He did admit that "We're paying substantially more. It's a lot of money, there's no question of that. The challenge is not to waste it."

Changing as well are the members of the Federation. Arguments over several issues have resulted in five departures from highly-ranked Federation positions. The board of directors replaced its executive committee when the officers stepped down following vocal discussions over internal issues.

Also discussed, but not publicly, is a suit has been filed by a lawyer for former Executive Director Scott Mandell, who left his position after two years.

Federation officials would not comment on the nature of his departure. Mandell's attorney David Mattingly preferred not to comment, pending a response to their lawsuit.

Mandell did remark that he remains "steadfastly committed to and supportive of the Gay Games movement and all that it provides the GLBT community. Tom Waddell's vision of inclusion, participation and the pursuit of one's personal best is a cornerstone of empowerment for our community."

Federation members declined to comment on when or if anyone would fill Mandell's position as executive director, the only paid position of the international organization that oversees the quadrennial Gay Games, originally founded by gay Olympian Tom Waddell.

Internal examination

The all-volunteer board, whom even Mandell (while its executive director) called "a group of very dedicated people," may be finally coming to grips with the debate over Gay Games V and its problems with medals, sanctioning, and financial mismanagement.

Inside sources say most of these Federation members will continue to serve as valued volunteers in other capacities, particularly toward Sydney 2002.

"The Federation is a very different organization now than when it was founded 10 years ago," said acting President Gene Dermody, who also runs Golden Gate Wrestling. "We have more and more sports and cultural groups joining the Federation board. The groups have taken an increasingly active interest in the day-to-day business of the Federation, and that's requiring us to

examine our internal management structure."

Most groups are relying on representatives from worldwide sports groups to disseminate information to their regional individual lesbian and gay athletes. Many such groups or teams worldwide have been organized by gay groups following Gay Games V.

"Over the next several months we're going to look at improving

communication between the acting executive committee officers, the other directors, and the Federation's various committees," Dermody said. "It's a tribute to the commitment of our former officers that they have remained on the board to help us go forward with the Federation's work."

Federation members stepping down from the executive committee are Roz Quarto, co-president (NYC GGV); Steve Mumby, co-president (NYC GGV); Markus Caspers, vice president (Berlin); Lisa LaBrecque, recording secretary (TeamSF); and Jerry Ervin, treasurer (TeamSF).

The acting executive committee consists of Dermody (San Francisco; International Wrestling Alliance); Vice President Derek Liecny (Oakland; Individual Federation Director); Treasurer Joseph E. Pasquarella Smith (Seattle; Team Seattle); Recording Secretary Charles Carson (New York; International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics); and Corresponding Secretary Roy Vestal (Denver; Lesbian & Gay Bands of America).

All longtime members of the sports community, the acting officers will serve until regular elections are held at the Federation's annual meeting in October. The meeting organizer will be Team Berlin, which had one of the largest contingents at Gay Games

V in Amsterdam.

"Our transition team has a lot of work to do over the next six months," said Dermody. "We got a good start in Canada last week thanks to our host, Equipe Montreal. It will be great to take the Federation back to Europe for its next meeting." Despite its publicized problems, Gay Games V is credited as having the highest-ever contingent of European athletes.

Yet the Federation meeting was also about examining past problems. The revised Federation board has already progressed with more stringent requirements for the fulfillment of its contract with Sydney, but insiders foresee few of the snafus that occurred in Amsterdam.

Under the direction of sports coordinators, Seddon said, communications with mainstream sports groups in Sydney have already surpassed those of recent Games. A criticism of the Dutch organizers was their reticence, and even in some cases, refusal, to accept outside experienced aid in organizing sports events.

Efficient and diverse

Sports coordinators for Gay Games VI will be volunteering for the 2000 Olympics at the same facilities that will be used by participants of Sydney 2002.

Sydney 2002's representatives also announced ambitious outreach goals for the Asian Pacific region, an area of the world underrepresented at previous Gay Games. "Scholarships are also focused on Southeast Asia," said Seddon.

Not only will the sporting events be mostly centralized in the new facilities under construction for the 2000 Olympics, but the efficiency and diversity of both the cultural and sports programs will be the largest, and Federation officials hope, best-produced Games ever.

And unlike Gay Games V, whose organization is still making

payments to creditors in small amounts, it will probably remain out of debt, a problem that has exponentially grown since the 1990 Vancouver Games.

Sydney has a long history of producing immense gay parties such as the annual Mardi Gras with government support. This is an advantage Seddon said will make Gay Games VI the first such large-scale gay sports event of the next century.

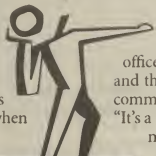
Sports competitions will be clustered in two main zones, one at the Olympic Park in Homebush and the other downtown at Sydney Harbour, making it easy for participants to attend a number of different events in close proximity. Sydney 2002 also plans to bring some cultural events directly to the athletic sites.

Among the local specialties will be Aboriginal dance and music groups, and an immense surf party on Bondi Beach, featuring the ever-popular Aussie lifeguards.

Seddon himself will participate in a distinctly Australian sport, one of a few making their Gay Games debut. POOFTA (Proud, Open & Out Football Touch Association), the touch club of Australia, will host the Touch Rugby tournament.

"Far more countries play rugby than American gridiron," Seddon remarked. "The touch competition will include seminars for flag football teams to learn the rules." Aussie Rules, perhaps. ▼

For information about the Federation of Gay Games write FOGG 584 Castro St. #343 SF CA 94114 (415) 695-0222, visit <http://www.gaygames.org>. For info on Gay Games VI, snail mail: Sydney 2002 Gay Games Ltd. GPO Box 2763 Sydney NSW 2001 Australia, or visit their website at <http://www.sydne2002.org.au>.



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Feinstein and Pelosi to inaugurate new Under One Roof location today

by Mark Norby

Under One Roof will reopen in a larger renovated space this week, and some of San Francisco's more prominent social and political leaders will join AIDS service organizations (ASOs) in celebration at a 6:30 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony today (Thursday, May 13).

Senator Dianne Feinstein and

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi will lead the ceremony, joined by cast members of *Rent*, who will perform renditions from the Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway musical. The event will bring Pelosi's involvement with Under One Roof full circle; she also cut the ribbon at the AIDS fundraising shop's original site in November 1991. Since then, it has raised more than \$5 million in unrestricted funds for AIDS organizations through-

out Northern California.

By now, however, it has outgrown its former storefront on Market Street, forcing a move to the new locale two blocks away, at 549 Castro Street.

Under One Roof began in 1990 as a fundraising vehicle for ASOs, selling items during the winter holiday season. The next year it was reborn as a year-round store, run by a small staff and scores of volunteers. Corporate

and individual donors provided operating funds, enabling 100 percent of the profits to go directly to participating organizations.

Floor selling space in the new Castro Street location is nearly double the size of the Market Street store, which will facilitate increased foot traffic and opportunities for additional products and fundraising. The site was designed by construction and building employees of the Gap, who

used their professional construction expertise and contacts to save enormous amounts in build-out costs. Other San Francisco corporate sponsors include Chevron, Wells Fargo, and DFS Group, Ltd. The new store will open to the public Friday, May 14. ▼

For more info, or to volunteer or donate, contact Under One Roof at (415) 252-9430.

Maupin, Gomez to help mark LYRIC's 10th anniversary Wednesday

by Mark Norby

The Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC) will celebrate its 10th anniversary by welcoming acclaimed authors Jewelle Gomez and Armistead Maupin in conjunction with the agency's annual Champions Event. The fundraising event will take place this Wednesday, May 19 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the award-winning Hang Gallery, located at 556 Sutter Street in San Francisco.

Gomez and Maupin will share coming out stories chosen specifically for LYRIC's family of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. The authors will honor LYRIC's founders and reunite 30 individuals responsible for creating the agency, and also will honor two queer youths that have made out-

standing contributions to LYRIC and its youth clients.

LYRIC was founded in 1988 by a group of community adults and young people who recognized the need to address issues and concerns of LGBTQ youth. "We've come a long way since 1988," says Brian Cheu, executive director of LYRIC. "We have just completed our long-term strategic plan that will bring us into the new millennium, and our future looks bright."

"But there's so much work that needs to be done. There's still a lot of harassment in schools for queer youth and a lot of education that needs to take place for those situations to change. LYRIC is also focusing on expanding health education services, job training and placement, leadership and advocacy tools."

Cheu said that LGBTQ youth "even in San Francisco" consti-

tute an underserved community who are often isolated and face barriers in accessing services to meet their needs. "It's always been our focus to deal with those barriers," he adds.

The proceeds from the event will ensure continued support of LYRIC's groundbreaking youth programming such as the Youth Talk and Info Line, which serves more than 15,000 youth annually, and its youth leadership conference, Young, Loud, and Proud.

LYRIC currently hosts eight peer-based programs, serves thousands of young people, and has 16 full- and part-time staff members. ▼

Tickets for the event are \$75 and are available by calling Ron Wong at (415) 920-9764, or Brian Cheu at (415) 703-6150, ext. 19.

'Picture This,' Continuum's picture perfect benefit Tuesday

by Cynthia Laird

Continuum HIV Day Services will host a benefit this Tuesday, May 18, where supporters will view the work of acclaimed contemporary British photographer Susan Derges. Entitled "Picture This," the benefit will raise funds to help the Tenderloin-based AIDS service organization continue providing an array of services for its clients.

The festive benefit takes place at the Fraenkel Gallery and includes hors d'oeuvres. Lucky guests may also have their pictures taken, organizers said.

Continuum operates the Ayse Manyas Kenmore Center as well as mobile sites in the Tenderloin that offer professional health and social support services. Executive Director Marcy Fraser noted that 85 percent of the agency's income goes directly to client services. ▼

The event takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 49 Geary Street, fourth floor. Tickets start at \$75 per person. For more information, call (415) 864-8582.

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Qualifications #164

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) seeks individual to develop and produce quarterly newsletters and annual reports. Total contract amount not to exceed \$32,000. Contract period: 7/1/99 - 6/30/00. Responses must be made after picking up an RFQ packet at DHS, G401, 170 Otis, 8th Floor, SE, CA 94120. RESPONSES DUE DATE: 1:00 PM, Tues., 6/1/99; NO EXCEPTIONS. Contact Esther Reyes at (415) 557-5864.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230173

The following person(s) are doing business as, Cinta Salon, 23 Grant Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA, 94108. This business is conducted by an husband and wife signed Jacinta Gibbons & Gerard Gibbons. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/24/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/25/99. APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230584

The following person(s) are doing business as, Robb Group, 2986 Washington Street San Francisco, CA, 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Judith E. Robb. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05/19/95. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/07/99. APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230716

The following person(s) are doing business as, Newspring California Company, 1730 A 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107. This business is conducted by an individ-

ual, signed Yat-Long Cheung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/13/99. APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230832

The following person(s) are doing business as, San Francisco Active Chiropractic, 312 Kansas Street San Francisco, CA, 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wooksun Hong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/16/99. APR. 29, MAY 6, 13, 20 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 231254

The following person(s) are doing business as, The Yoga Mat, 1126 Bush Street #405, San Francisco, CA, 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Pearl Sarah Bates. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/3/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/03/99. MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 1999.

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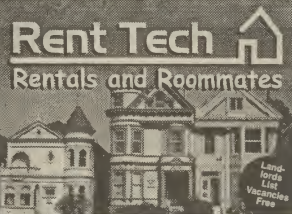
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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO: FILE NO: 303324

In the Matter of the Application of
Thomas Emanuel Ross. For Change of
Name. The application of Thomas
Emanuel Ross, for change of name, having
been filed in court, and it appearing from
said application that Thomas Emanuel
Ross has filed an application proposing
that his name be changed to Thomas
Emanuel Rosenberg. Now therefore, it is
hereby ordered and directed, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in department X-4/206 on
the 29th day of July, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock
am., of said day to show cause why the
application for change of name should not be
granted.
MAY 13, 20, 27, JUNE 3 1999

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO: FILE NO: 302826

In the Matter of the Application of
Jennifer Rebecca Evelyn Morin. For Change
of Name. The application of Jennifer
Rebecca Evelyn Morin, for change of name,
having been filed in court, and it appearing
from said application that Jennifer
Rebecca Evelyn Morin has filed an application
proposing that her name be changed to
Percy Wise. Now therefore, it is hereby
ordered and directed, that all persons
interested in said matter do appear before
this Court in department X-4/206 on the
25th day of May, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock
am., of said day to show cause why the
application for change of name should not be
granted.
APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999

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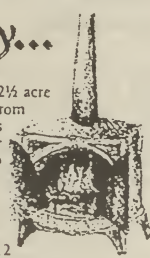
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATMENT FILE NO. 230522

The following person(s) are doing business as, eAnimal3.com, 3429 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA. 94118. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Theresa Dollard & Laurie Martin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/06/99.

APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13, 1999.

STATMENT FILE NO. 230875

The following person(s) are doing business as, Fine Faggott Foods of San Francisco, 847 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Robert C. Wortman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/1/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/19/99.

APR. 29, MAY 6, 13, 20 1999

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE. CASE NO: 271861

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Florence P. Chavis aka Florence Phyllis Chavis. A petition for probate has been filed by Ahmad A. Rasheed, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA. 94102. The petition for probate requests that Ahmad A. Rasheed, be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action). The Independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition

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will be held on: June 1, 1999. Time: 9:00am Dept: #13, Room: #204, 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA. 94102. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections of file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner J. W. Macneil, Esq. Law Office of Justin W. Macneil, P. O. Box 26024 San Francisco, CA. 94126-6024 (415) 434-3490
MAY 13, 20, 27 1999

STATMENT FILE NO. 231333

The following person(s) are doing business as, terenceWorks, 87 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Terry L. Hopper. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/04/99.

MAY 13, 20, 27, JUNE 3 1999

STATMENT FILE NO. 231434

The following person(s) are doing business as, CTI, 2261 Market Street Ste. #268 San Francisco, CA. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Blair Vermillion. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/07/99.

MAY 13, 20, 27, JUNE 3 1999

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In the Matter of the Application of
Michael Joseph Sieradzki. For Change of
Name. The application of Michael Joseph
Sieradzki for change of name, having been
filed in court, and it appearing from said
application that Michael Joseph Sieradzki
has filed an application proposing that his
name be changed to Michael Joseph
Sarid. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered
and directed, that all persons interested in
said matter do appear before this Court in
department X-4/206 on the 17th day of
June, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock am., of said day
to show cause why the application for change of
name should not be granted.
MAY 13, 20, 27, JUNE 3 1999

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Please read this information before you start taking COMBIVIR (pronounced KOM-bi-veer). Staying informed will help you to work more closely with your doctor and healthcare team to determine what is best for you. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussion with your healthcare provider. You should remain under a doctor's care when using COMBIVIR and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider.

What is COMBIVIR?

COMBIVIR is the brand name of a tablet that combines EPIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine tablets) [3TC®] and RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Tablets [AZT], two drugs which are used to treat HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

How does COMBIVIR work?

COMBIVIR is a combination of lamivudine (la-MIV-u-deen) and zidovudine (zi-DOHV-u-deen), two medicines (nucleoside analogues) that slow down the replication of the HIV virus. This can reduce the virus' ability to infect new cells. It may help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. Lamivudine plus zidovudine when used together can have stronger (synergistic) effects against the virus. COMBIVIR is a convenient way of taking lamivudine and zidovudine. COMBIVIR should usually be taken with other anti-HIV therapy.

Will COMBIVIR work the same as EPIVIR and RETROVIR taken together?

Yes, taking one COMBIVIR Tablet twice a day is the same as taking one EPIVIR 150 mg Tablet twice a day and either two RETROVIR 100 mg Capsules three times a day or one RETROVIR 300 mg Tablet twice a day.

How should I take COMBIVIR?

Take COMBIVIR as your doctor prescribes it. The recommended dose is one COMBIVIR Tablet orally two times a day, with or without food. To help make sure you will benefit from COMBIVIR, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays."

What should I do if I miss a dose of COMBIVIR?

If you miss a dose by more than 4 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 4 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of COMBIVIR at any one time.

Does COMBIVIR cure HIV infection or AIDS?

No, there is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking COMBIVIR may still develop infections or other illnesses associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important to remain under the care of a healthcare provider. Use of lamivudine plus zidovudine has been shown to help patients with HIV infection stay healthy and live longer.

Does COMBIVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

No, COMBIVIR, as well as other HIV medications, has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take COMBIVIR?

You should not take COMBIVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to either lamivudine or zidovudine.

Do not take COMBIVIR at the same time as EPIVIR or RETROVIR because they also contain lamivudine and zidovudine.

Individual dosing with EPIVIR plus RETROVIR, rather than COMBIVIR, should be considered for:

- A child under 12 years of age.
- A patient who weighs less than 110 pounds.
- Anyone who requires dosage adjustments due to drug side effects or poor kidney function.

What medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my healthcare provider?

Talk to your healthcare provider if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking COMBIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg/zidovudine 300 mg) Tablets. Ask your doctor about enrolling you in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: 1-800-258-4263.
- You are breastfeeding. Mothers infected with HIV should not breastfeed their infants because HIV is present in breast milk.

Also talk to your doctor about:

- Problems with your blood counts.
- Problems with your muscles.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease, such as hepatitis.

Can COMBIVIR be taken with other medications?

Yes, COMBIVIR can be taken with most medications, including most anti-HIV drugs. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medications, over-the-counter or prescription, that you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of COMBIVIR?

Do not rely on this summary alone for information about side effects. Your healthcare provider can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects that may be relevant to you.

The safety of COMBIVIR is not expected to be different from the safety of EPIVIR and RETROVIR given separately.

In clinical studies of lamivudine plus zidovudine, side effects occurring in 5% or more of patients included: muscle and joint pain, headache, nausea, weakness and fatigue, nasal symptoms, cough, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, neuropathy, trouble sleeping, fever or chills, loss of appetite, dizziness, abdominal pain or cramps, depression, skin rashes, and indigestion.

It's important to know that serious side effects can occur with COMBIVIR, such as a decrease in red and white blood cells and muscle damage. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including nucleoside analogues.

For HIV-infected individuals, periodic blood tests are recommended. If certain changes occur in your laboratory results while you are taking COMBIVIR, particularly if you become anemic or if your white blood cell count falls too low, your medication may need to be adjusted; your doctor may prescribe EPIVIR plus RETROVIR separately in place of COMBIVIR.

Tell your doctor promptly about any side effects or other unusual symptoms you may experience.

Other Information

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep COMBIVIR and all medicines out of the reach of children.

Like most prescription drugs, lamivudine and zidovudine were required to be tested on animals before they were allowed for human use. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, zidovudine was associated with vaginal tumors. Your healthcare provider can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean about safety for you.

How should I store COMBIVIR Tablets?

COMBIVIR Tablets may be stored at room temperature and do not require refrigeration.

This provides a summary of information about COMBIVIR. If you have any questions or concerns about COMBIVIR or HIV, talk to your healthcare provider.



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Taking a big bite out of life
In Ricardo A. Bracho's new play 'Fed Up,' cannibalism and racial dread meet.
page 39

Disabled, not dissuaded
AXIS Dance Company inspires by performing.
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'Tea' for two
'Mussolini' chat with Franco Zeffirelli and Cher.
page 42



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 19 • 13 May 1999

Hiding in plain sight

Talking gay youth with 'Get Real' director Simon Shore

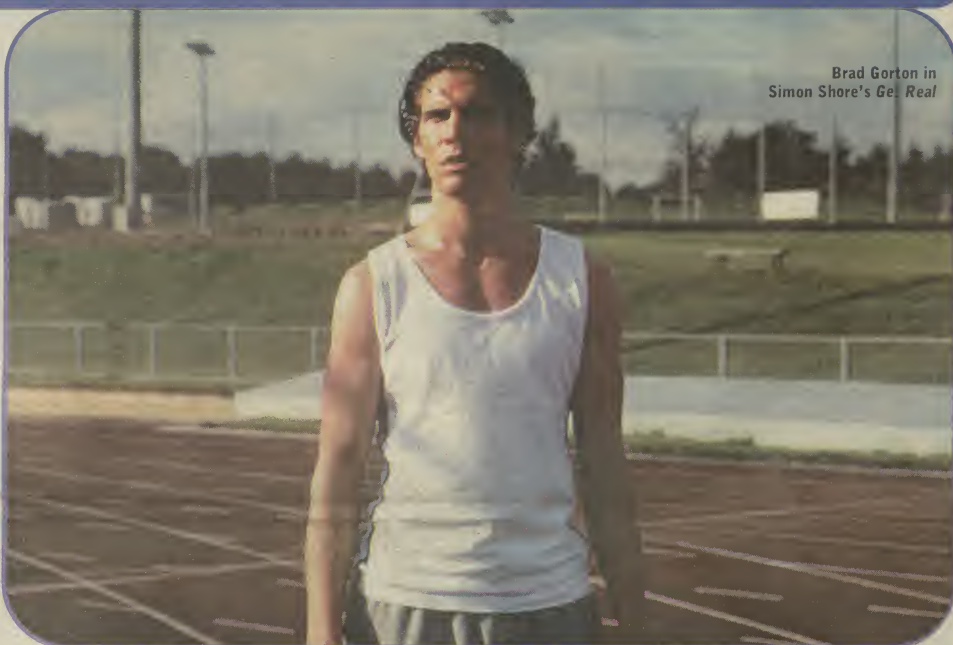
by David Lambie

In a scene straight out of *ET*, a teenage boy is running for his life through the woods bordering his sterile suburban town. The next day at school, 16-year-old Steven Carter tells his athlete boyfriend John Dixon that he was "picked up by the police."

"And?" interjects John.
"What do you think?" cries Steven.
"They gave me a lecture about the park being out of bounds because it's full of disgusting people like us."

In *Get Real*, a new film with a title loosely borrowed from Oscar Wilde, Steven and John are hiding in plain sight the knowledge of their love affair from their teachers, classmates and parents — hiding their true identities from all the citizens of Basingstoke, part of the ring of utopian "new town" suburbs surrounding central London like a noose, the British version of the new communities springing up near Disney World in Florida. At one point in *Get Real*, Steven confesses to Linda, his next-door neighbor and pretend girlfriend, that he feels like an alien

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Brad Gorton in
Simon Shore's *Get Real*

Sally M. Lee

Abstract expressionism

'Symphonie Fantastique' at Zeum

by Richard Dodds

A scene from
Symphonie Fantastique

Maybe it's one the mind's games, the struggle to give familiar meaning to images it does not recognize. And so, a reviewer's notes after a performance of *Symphonie Fantastique* is a scrawl of phrases like "the wash gone berserk," "landscape of Antarctica that shrivels up," "fireworks as sperm," and "enchanted seaweed."

Symphonie Fantastique is puppeteer Basil Twist's highly inventive and generally engrossing experiment in abstract puppetry that uses water as the medium for the visual magic. A surprise hit in New York, an enlarged version recently opened at the Zeum Theater for an open-ended run. Size does matter, but in this case not as you might expect.

The ongoing New York production takes place in a tiny SoHo theater space where at most 90 people huddle together to watch the proceedings through the side of a 500-gallon tank. At 200 seats, the new Zeum Theater in the Yerba Buena Gardens complex is hardly cavernous, but one suspects that some of the jewel-like intimacy has been lost in the move to larger quar-

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by Roberto Friedman
and Backstage Betty

There was a rash of celebrity sightings at a preview performance of *Cyberotical*, the new "low-tech rock musical about a high-tech world" which opens tonight (May 13) at the Transmission Theatre. The theatre is right next door to the Paradise Lounge, where hot local-band-makes-the-big-time **Third Eye Blind** was performing. The dressing rooms for the two venues connect, and as fate would have it, the band and the *Cyberotical* cast had to share the space. Who should walk in, much to the surprise of the ensemble cast, but oft-in-tabloid-ink celebstrut **Anna Nicole Smith**! Isn't she that one-time *zafra*, octogenarian-chasing gold-digger who now and again appeared in *Guess* Jean ads? It seems that AN-S is tight with members of the band, and came to say hello before they went on. When she got a whiff of all those neighboring trannies hootin' and hollerin' while putting on their faces, she followed her nose and went to where the fun was. Smith asked **Portia 666** and **Jordan LaMoore** to apply her makeup to "make me look like a transvestite."

Even though some of the cast whispered that she did not need much help to achieve her goal, they went to work on willing Missy Anna. Once transformed, Smith (reportedly in a somewhat altered state of consciousness) was ushered through the theatre over to the Paradise to see *Third Eye* perform. (Coincidentally, **Leigh Crow**, who plays Trixie in *Cyberotical*, was featured in the band's latest video, "Jumper.")

Just when things were getting back to normal (admittedly a relative concept with this crew), who should wander into the theatre to see what all the cackling was about? Intense straightboy actor **Sean Penn**, also in the neighborhood to see the band. Penn just happened to wander in when **Laurie Bushman** in the genderbending role of Caleb was singing the "Kill Me a Trannie for Jesus" number. Penn stayed only a very few minutes, then was seen dashing off — maybe it was a bit too much, even for him. Sensitive flower.

Cyberotical plays every Thursday until July 29 at the Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. For tickets, call 861-6906.

Press behaving badly

Sighted at the opening of *Basil*



The cast of *Cyberotical*!

Twist's *Symphonic Fantastique* last week at the Zeum Theatre: ACT artistic director **Carey Perloff**, playing **Mary Poppins** to her kids; YBC exec director **John Killacky**, who can't wait to see **Cher's** latest star turn in *Tea with Mussolini*; and an unusual confluence of



Out There

theatre and music critics, who had to come to see what was, after all, a boundary-blurring spectacle. One classical music scribe was seen conducting, from his seat, the canned **Eugene Ormandy** and the Philadelphia Symphony rendering of the **Berlioz** score.

At the afterparty at Clouds, we fell to chatting up a bloke who had just been to Sea World down in Bland Diego, who said he enjoyed watching **Shamu the Killer Whale** more than *Fantastique*. We promptly got all "save-the-whales" with the guy, recalling some footage we had seen of that Orca trapped in a Mexican showtank with a sad, wilted dorsal fin. Free **Willy**!

We conducted ourselves even more atrociously when his friend arrived, a one-time campaign manager for a current gay supervisor who was most assuredly *not* endorsed by the SF Tenants' Union. This same supe, when pressed on his recent anti-**Piazzoni** mural vote by an angry art critic, responded, "But I voted for **The Foot!**"

At least there were creatures other than ourselves behaving badly the next evening at the SF International Film Festival closing night party at Custer Avenue Stages in glamorous India Basin. Fest director **Peter Scarlet** wore a traditional Kazakh outfit and gloated that **Da Mayor** couldn't find it at Wilkes Bashford. Local film critic **Hera Caen** lamented the end of the Hospitality Suite for hungry

presspersons like herself. And the greeters just wouldn't give us our freebie lipstick at the door, since we do look like a man. Sure wasn't the gay film fest! That's okay, we wouldn't have worn that shade anywhere north of Boca Raton.

Talk talk

A graffiti we spied on lovely 9th Street on our walk to work caught our attention. It reads: "Can a leper change his spots? Next on the **Ricki Lake** Show!"

Welcome indeed was the news that *The Jenny Jones Show* was ordered to pay \$25 mil to the family of a gay man shot to death after revealing his "secret crush" on a man on the show. In honor of the verdict, this week we read *Freaks Talk Back: Tabloid Talk Shows and Sexual Nonconformity*, a new book by Yale sociology prof **Joshua Gamson** (University of Chicago Press). The book is an examination of the ways queer sexualities are demonized and played for their "freak" value on all those daytime shows which beam out into the heartland every day. Gamson shows the ways gay people are tricked onto the shows, promised that the subject of the show will be a positive portrayal of their lives, only to find, upon taping, anti-gay opponents "appearing out of the woodwork," as one guest, bisexual educator **Michael Szomanski**, puts it. His account of the taping of a **Leeza [Gibbons]** show includes "this guy [who] was a plant in the audience to get up and say, 'My girlfriend was given AIDS by a bisexual man.' Well, it was a total fabrication once again. [Fellow guest] **Ant** told me later that the guy was a producer who asked him out on a date after the show."

Transsexual activist and director of FTM [Female-to-Male] International **James Green** tells his tale of being lured onto **Charles Perez**

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Phil Donahue, talking with Melody on his show in November 1988

Appetite for life

'Fed Up' cannibals at Theatre Rhino

by Richard Dodds

Fed Up: *A Cannibal's Own Story* isn't so much a "kill whitey" story as it is a "kill whitey" kind of tale. One of the characters is archtypically named Dead White Writer, and if the point remains unclear, he is devoured by the black and Latino characters during one surreal interlude. This is a play in which the question, "Did you eat his ass?" takes on multiple meanings.

That the characters in Ricardo A. Bracho's new play at Theatre Rhino are gay is a given. It is not an issue discussed, and there is no reference to a straight culture beyond their own. But the characters are definitely aware of a dominating white culture that Bracho sees as poisonous to the creativity, opportunities, and relationships for those outside that exclusive white umbrella.

The tone is set in an opening prologue in which a black actress (Saun-Toy Latifa Trotter) identifies herself as Sycorax, an unseen character in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* who, she charges, would have been a character of color who has been rendered silent. Almost 500 years after Shakespeare's death, Sycorax has finally found her voice.

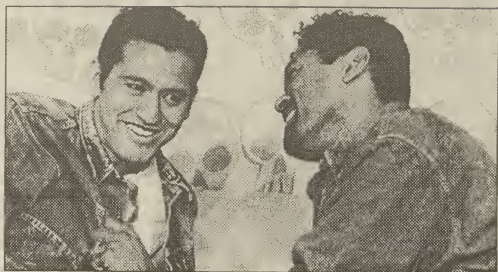
In *The Tempest*, Sycorax was an evil sorceress. Here she weaves herself through a series of scenes that depict with increasing tension the relationship among four friends. That they are all various shades of black and brown doesn't prevent, in the playwright's view, an insidious white presence to affect their ability for growth.

This is especially true of the characters Theo (Benton Greene) and Mauricio (Norman Antonio Zelaya), who see their love affair destroyed by the Latino Mauricio's increasing intolerance of the black Theo's subtle preference for white-identified social trappings. The opening scene, in fact, depicts the post-coital moments between Theo and a white trick (John Carl Wartella) who oozes Southern decadence, whose surname is Sebastian (see Tennessee Williams' cannibal tale *Suddenly Last Summer*), and who is, worst of all, a writer. This character remains an unsavory icon to eventually be destroyed.

Dark shadows

Much of the first act is set, more or less, in a real world in which, after Theo's clandestine sexual liaison, Theo and Mauricio drive to the Castro to meet up with another couple (Carleton Robinson and Alberto Rangel) for a picnicking day trip down the coast. They bitch, they squabble, and they camp, but it all turns dark as the day continues, and at the start of the second act, we are thrust into a kind of a parallel universe where these four men turn into poetic cannibals. Although we are eventually returned to the "real" world, it has become a different place. Introspection and confrontation have become the norm.

The playwright has set a challenging course for himself, exploring a spectrum of cultural permutations and doing so in adventurous ways. There is a crackling energy and wit to Bracho's dialogue in the "real" scenes, though the words get rather gummy



Alberto Rangel and Carleton Robinson in *Fed Up: A Cannibal's Own Story*

when he plays with an ethereal poetry. The play is hardly linear, either in form or message, and the tangents can feel unresolved by play's end.

Director Reginald McDonald handles the play's various components skillfully, and the cast is solidly in tune with the author's intentions. Those intentions, which can by turns be provocative, didac-

tic, and obvious, are far afield from what is usually available in the local theater. And so, to Theatre Rhino, a big thumbs up for taking the chance on *Fed Up*. ▼

Fed Up: A Cannibal's Own Story will run at Theatre Rhino through June 6. Tickets are \$12-\$20. Call 861-5079.



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-Stephen Farber, MOVIELINE

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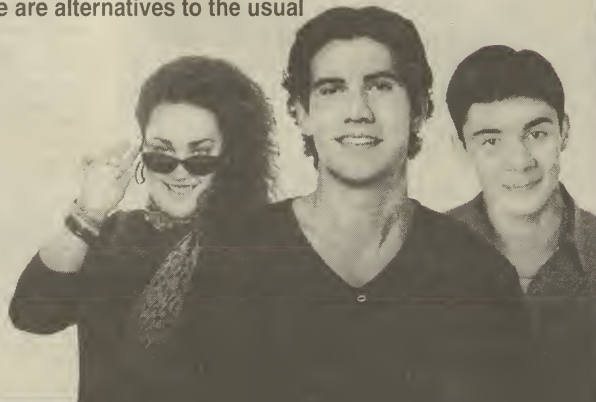
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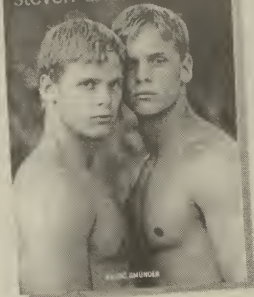
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Breaking the
gender barrier

by Deborah Peifer

I've been ragging Ed Decker, artistic director of the New Conservatory Theatre Center (25 Van Ness Ave.), about his all-male Pride Season for some years now, and it is with great delight that I announce the gender barrier has been broken. The Pride Season itself continues testosterone-ically, of course, but NCT has pulled together an extraordinarily diverse foursome for its *Celebrating Women Festival*. It seemed appropriate to congratulate Decker, and to find out how the festival came about.

"For the past three years," Decker begins, "we've been trying to find a way to approach this audience, to think about as many categories of women as we can. Our first effort targeted lesbians, who tend not to be a theatre audience. Lesbians told us that 'theatre is not on the top of our list of activities.' We continue to have a real interest in reaching a lesbian audience, but this program is not exclusively lesbian. Variety seemed a better way to reach a women's audience, so we've included world premieres by Karen Finley and Holly Hughes, as well as a revival of *Parallel Lives* [based on Mo Gaffney and Kathy Najimy's *The Kathy and Mo Show*] and a multimedia oral history written and performed by Betty McAfee.

"There are several venues for women's performance in the Bay Area, but there can't be too many, so we hope to become another location where women can find work that speaks to them. If this festival is successful, we'll continue it next year, and, I hope, include a music program."

The Festival opens with *Shut Up and Love Me!*, a new work by Karen Finley, one of the NEA

Four. I talked with her briefly about the show, the Supreme Court, life and art.

"The show was born from a series of pieces called *Shut Up and Love Me!*" Finley said. "One part explored my understanding of my continuing relationship with Jesse Helms [the notoriously homophobic Senator], a relationship that is both publicly sexual and abusive. This is a time of public sexual shame. The whole Clinton thing is about people being ashamed of their own sexuality, and I was looking at that issue. I found that this shaming even affected me, so I was trying to find a way to explore that in performance with humor."

Finley's Supreme Court challenge to NEA's funding practices was lost last year, so now her challenge is to "find a way to be creative without government funding. I have to go into new directions. I'm directing my own feature film, and I teach art at Cal Arts. *Shut Up and Love Me!* is visual art. I don't see myself as a theatre artist. I'm a visual artist doing actions." Those actions, and Finley's incisive and biting observations on politics and the arts, run for three performances only, May 12-16, and are a benefit for the Celebrating Women Festival. Call 861-8972. The festival continues throughout the summer. Save money by subscribing to the series; you may also buy single tickets for each performance.

Footloose at Venue 9 (252 9th St.) throws a fundraising party on May 18 that includes a performance of *Sound Advice*, a multimedia exploration of fear and the body, as well as stand-up comedy, dance, and performance art. Call 289-2000.

Miscellany

I've had a tour of the newly restored Rafael Theatre in San Rafael, and it's gorgeous. Check it out at the 7th annual JCC Film Festival, May 23-28. The films include *Pi*, the directorial debut of Darren Aronofsky which won a directing award at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival, and *Soleil*, which features Sophia Loren. Call 454-1222 for times.

If you love Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, check out Pocket Opera's production on May 23 at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Call 575-1102.

Site-specific theatre can be extraordinary, or not. Judge for yourself at Mettle Theatre's production



Karen Finley

of *Drunkin Grownups* through June 5, at Patisserie Cafe, 1155 Folsom St. Even if the play, a sort of *Iceman Cometh* with donuts instead of whiskey, doesn't thrill, the price of a ticket includes dinner. Call 648-0480 for reservations.

Cinderella, A Tale of Survival is a dance/drama revisiting of the classic fairy tale that explores the devastating emotional impact of abuse on women and children. This version opens in a battered women's shelter where Cinderella has fled to escape her abusive prince. When her fairy godmothers arrive swinging on trapezes, Cinderella herself learns to overcome and to triumph. *Cinderella* runs May 21-23 at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida near Mariposa. Call 621-7797.

Finally, don't think that NCT's interest in women marks an end to its tradition of theatre about hunky guys. *Key West*, which takes place at a gay clothing-optional resort, runs May 19 through July 17. ▼

Michael Mendelsohn and Maria Kavanaugh in Pocket Opera's *Orpheus in the Underworld*

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Nancy Madden and Matt Rozen in Mettle Theatre's *Drunkin Grownups*

Fatal attraction

Truffaut's 'Mississippi Mermaid' plays the Castro Theatre

by Andrew Huang

Part Hitchcockian thriller, part Renoirian human drama, and part Ophulian analysis of love, François Truffaut's underrated gem *Mississippi Mermaid* is an erratic suspense noir that proves ultimately satisfying. With two of the most magnetic movie stars of this century, Jean-Paul Belmondo and Catherine Deneuve, at its center, holding the film together as a couple in a tempestuous love/hate relationship, this genre-bending romantic adventure doesn't aim for greatness, but hits a high mark as the work of a true auteur. First released in 1969 to little fanfare, the restored complete European version which opens Friday at the Castro Theatre offers 13 minutes of extra footage that doesn't elevate the film significantly, but adds deeper resonance to a film where the accrual of details is the game.

Louis, played with earthy earnestness by Belmondo, is a tobacco tycoon who arranges his marriage through a personal ad column. His hitherto unmet bride arrives in the dazzling, literally to-kill-for form of Marion — in another icy goddess turn by the flawlessly beautiful Deneuve — who quickly wins his love and the admiration of the whole town. They spend months in honeymoon bliss until one day, Marion suddenly disappears, leaving Louis' bank account empty. Wounded in emotion and in pocketbook, Louis hires a detective to track this mysterious woman down, but instead spots her first through local TV news coverage. After their reunion and the disclosure of her real identity, the film spends its second half in contemplating how these two ill-fitted lovers, whose fatal attraction to each other manifests in their feisty exchange of epithets and venom, can manage to stay together.

True to Truffaut's roots as a French New Wave director, *Mermaid* shows a New Wave propen-

sity for an anything-goes blending of techniques, moods and genres. Its fixation with the forms of the cinema — with its jump cut, freeze frame, flashback, panning and tracking shots, iris-in-square inset, and even its atmospheric soundtrack that sometimes lapses into TV thug-show sound effects — might come off as kitsch for the audiences in this post-Warhol, post-Tarantino, post-Pop-Up-Video, post-Truman Show era of media-savvy pop self-reference. Nevertheless, it behooves any cinephile to remember that the New Wave helped to liberate filmmaking from the tyranny of the invisible Hollywood classical style. Truffaut the film critic demanded in 1954 that a film should simultaneously express "an idea of the world and an idea of the cinema," and this film's stylistic self-consciousness constantly reminds us that we're watching a film, a work of creative manipulation, an argument by Truffaut the author, rather than selling us a fantasy wholesale the Hollywood fashion. As an auteur, Truffaut certainly makes his presence felt, even if his stylish flamboyance seems stilted by modern standards.

Hitch homage

Based on a novel by Cornell Woodrich, who also wrote the novel from which *Rear Window* was adapted, *Mississippi Mermaid* is the most successful of Truffaut's tributes to Hitchcock — much better than the facile *The Bride Wore Black* and the lukewarm *Confidentially Yours*. Its first half a by-the-numbers suspense thriller and its second half a character study, it even has the schizophrenia of Hitchcock's sleeper classic *Vertigo*.

With a graphically ebullient opening sequence of newspaper classified ads and overlapping voiceover reciting the ads, the movie sets up its central metaphor, the quest for love in a sea of people. The plot device of personal ads, which can also be

seen in *Bed and Board*, signifies Truffaut's perennial obsession with the longing and searching for love. At first appearing to be a variation of the exploration of images, personae and identities à la *Vertigo*, *Mermaid* then veers off into Truffaut's own thematic territory, the mechanism of love, as reflected in his cycle of the five Antoine Doinel films.

Truffaut also shares Hitchcock's fascination with statuesque, infallibly beautiful women. The mysterious femme fatale is a regular fixture in the Truffaut landscape, even in his non-genre films such as *Jules and Jim* and *The Story of Adele H.* But Truffaut's humanistic predilection prevents him from falling into the trap of misogyny. His femme fatale could be as vulnerable as the preyed-upon man. The film adaptation changes the novel's black-and-white characterization into gradations of grayness. Marion becomes less the manipulative femme fatale and Louis less the naive imbecile. Louis' death in the book is even replaced with an ambivalent ending in the movie.

Though they don't have the visual poetry of Alan Resnais, nor the political acumen of Jean-Luc Godard, the best of Truffaut's films excel at depicting the subtle fabric of a situation and the smoldering emotions of its characters. Despite its genre-film trappings, *Mississippi Mermaid* is ultimately most interested in the dissection of obsessive love. Structurally imperfect yet registering the most visceral impact of all of Truffaut's genre attempts, this failed Hitchcockian homage is rescued by its Renoirian warmth. If the film flounders as a suspense thriller, it never fails to intrigue us as an auteur's personal essay on love. ▼

Mississippi Mermaid plays the Castro Theatre May 14-20, opening the François Truffaut retrospective, which runs through June 9.



Catherine Deneuve and Jean-Paul Belmondo in *Mississippi Mermaid*

Wet dream

'Midsummer' on film

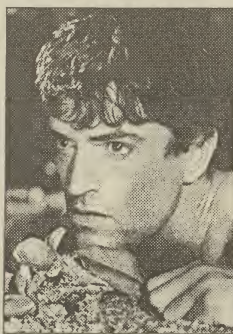
by Stephanie von Buchau

Shakespeare's bucolic *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, though it takes place in ancient Athens, and Mendelssohn's incidental music to the play, though he was a German Jew, are quintessentially English, reeking of a gentle hedge-and-stile countryside daubed with faerie magic and human dopeyness. So when Michael Hoffman's new filmed version opens with will-o-the-wisps flitting to the dulcet tones of Mendelssohn's overture, your pulse automatically quickens. Maybe this will be an enchanting experience.

Alas, Hoffman is not interested in natural pulse or enchantment, things consonant with the Bard's tender and touching comedy. No, he's a citizen of the late 20th century, and that means noise (the operatic score is deafening) and decadence; Oberon's otherworld looks like a bad place to catch STDs just by breathing

the air. Love is about nothing but hormones, and faeries are a cynical jape invented by hysterical Edwardian girls with access to a primitive camera. In other words, Hoffman's *Dream* rocks, but it doesn't dream. And that may not bother most viewers.

Those who do know the original will have a better chance of understanding what Hoffman has done to Shakespeare's shivery masterpiece if they just forget everything they ever knew about the play. An American-Anglophile Rhodes scholar, Hoffman is probably best known for the amusing *Soapdish*, though he also made *One Fine Day* with Michele Pfeiffer. Here Pfeiffer plays Titania, queen of the faeries, whose little Indian page is coveted by her autocratic husband, Oberon. (Don't ask why, and in any case, Hoffman drops this subplot like the hot potato that it is.) In Britten's opera, Oberon is a countertenor, and here he's equally ambiguous in the gorgeous, and mostly undressed, person of Ru-



Rupert Everett as Oberon

pert Everett. *My Best Friend's Wedding* this is not.

The way Everett and Stanley Tucci's Puck lie about on wet grass whispering evil in each other's ears is certainly provocative, though I thought the mournful Tucci (complete with horns and ponytail, he looks like the bartender at your local leather dive) would have been a more satisfying Nick Bottom than Kevin Kline. It's not enough that Bottom is one of the most tedious hams in Shakespeare — Hoffman has beefed up the part. Bottom is now

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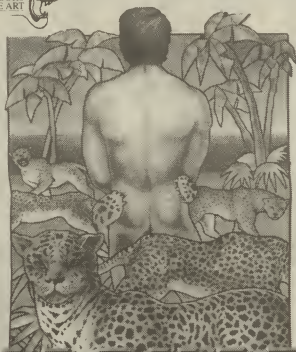
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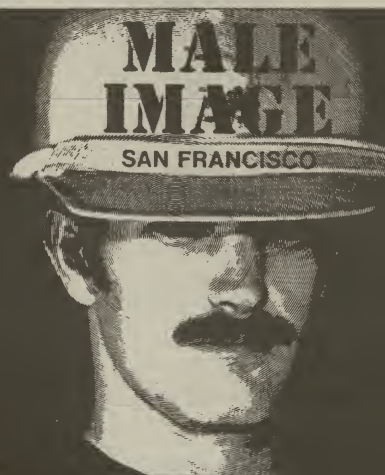
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Tea with Zeffirelli

And chat with Cher, as 'Mussolini' opens

by Tim Nasson

Long before Leonardo DiCaprio was born, famed, openly gay film director Franco Zeffirelli was reveling in adoration and winning awards for his big-screen production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

That was 1968. Thirty years later, at the age of 77 (though he admits only to being 75), Zeffirelli is back and better than ever with *Tea with Mussolini*, a film account of his childhood.

Starring Academy Award-winning actresses Dame Judi Dench (*Shakespeare in Love*), Cher (*Moonstruck*), Dame Maggie Smith (*A Room with a View*), and Mrs. Lawrence Olivier, Lady Joan Plowright, *Tea with Mussolini* puts Zeffirelli back in top form after a few disasters.

Granted that Zeffirelli helmed the 1990 Hollywood production of *Hamlet* starring Mel Gibson, he is also responsible for three of the biggest bombs in cinematic history, the most memorable being *Endless Love*, which incidentally was Tom Cruise's first film — and, he can be thankful, not his last. Zeffirelli also directed Elizabeth Taylor and James Spader in a 1988 film, *Young Toscanini*, allegedly so dreadful that it was never released in the United States.

All can be forgiven, however, with *Tea with Mussolini*, which seems destined to garner a slew of Academy Award nominations next year.

Zeffirelli, who has been an Italian Senator since 1960, entered filmmaking as an assistant to some of the greatest European directors of his time, Michaelangelo Antonioni, Roberto Rossellini and Luchino Visconti. During our nearly 30 minutes together, he was in no mood to talk about his sexuality or private life, only his newest film.

"Mr. Zeffirelli will not speak to you unless you agree to not bring up his sexual orientation or private life," his publicist said explicitly. Yet Zeffirelli outed himself in the *Advocate* (saying, "I hate to call certain human beings 'gay.' The moment you say 'gay,' I already see a movement or a category or a ghetto. I don't like that at all."), signed four actresses most revered in the gay community to *Tea*, and filmed the story of his life, which entailed being raised by the English *Golden Girls*. Every gay boy's dream.

Better late...

"How did you sign the dream team of actresses?" I have to ask when Zeffirelli arrives, an hour late for our interview.

"It was simple. I was lucky. All of the women were heaven-sent," says Zeffirelli.

Having flown from Rome (where he makes his home and works as a stage director of operas) to New York City to promote *Tea*, Zeffirelli seems happy to be once again at the center of the film world's attention.

"Joan Plowright was the pillar that brought everyone in this film together," he says. "We have been friends for years. She knew about my whole childhood and had read my biography when it came out. She knew that the first three chapters were going to be what *Tea with Mussolini* was about and gave me an ultimatum. 'I will

Franco Zeffirelli directs Cher on the set of *Tea with Mussolini*

break our friendship,' she said, 'if you don't let me play Mary.'"

From as far back as 1951, Zeffirelli had wanted to make *Tea*. The idea was initially developed with close friend and journalist Donald Downs. But the film would not take its current form until after Zeffirelli published his memoirs, *Zeffirelli — An Autobiography*, in 1988.

"The setting for the film is, in essence, the unchanged Florence of the Middle Ages, which was nearing its final days," says Zeffirelli. "It was a city which had resisted the worst excesses of modernization. It had preserved almost intact its character both as a medieval city and one which also embodied the splendors of the Renaissance."

Tea took only 11 weeks to film, yet 14 months "to gel up," in Zeffirelli's words. "Without Joan, it never would have happened."

How did Judi Dench get involved?

"Judi had just finished a play in London and was free. She is very friendly with Joan and had heard that I was to do the movie. She called me and asked if there was a role for her. I obliged her, of course, because I would have been a fool not to. She is one of the world's greatest living actors."

"As for Maggie [Smith], I wrote the part for her."

There was a lot of trouble finding an American actress to play the role which Cher ultimately won.

"Cher auditioned for the role and took it when it was offered to her, not only because she liked me," says Zeffirelli. "She was definitely what I was looking for."

Waiting for 'Tea'

Earlier this year, I had the

chance to speak with Cher while she was doing a promotional tour for her hit single "Believe." No one, not even she, expected the CD or its subsequent singles to be the hits they are. She had just completed work on *Tea* and was anticipating its release.

"I fell in love with the story and was determined to land a role in the film, come hell or high water," Cher said. "Of course, I love Franco, and hold many of his films dear to my heart. And I could not pass up the challenge of playing opposite three of the best actresses to ever have graced the Silver Screen."

Zeffirelli describes the "Scorpi- oni" — British expatriates living in Italy — as "ageless ladies who dressed as if nothing had changed since the end of the century. I remember vividly their arrival at certain hours, especially at teatime. They came in pairs or in small groups. In spring and summer they caused a sensation with their lace, cream and lilac colors, their parasols and old-fashioned hats, at their meeting place."

"I felt I had to tell this story," Zeffirelli adds. "Not just about the part I played in it, but also about these extraordinary women who tried to resist the madness of war that was sweeping across Europe. They simply did not see why Italy and England could not still be friends just because a bunch of idiots had decided to go to war."

While *Tea* opens, Zeffirelli is already at work on two new films. Not bad for a nearly-80-year-old classy Italian who enjoys spending time in his "rose garden and with five beautiful dogs." ▼

Tea with Mussolini opens in the Bay Area on Friday, May 14.



Cher

Judi Dench

Joan Plowright

Maggie Smith

Lily Tomlin

Tea with Mussolini

A story of civilized disobedience.



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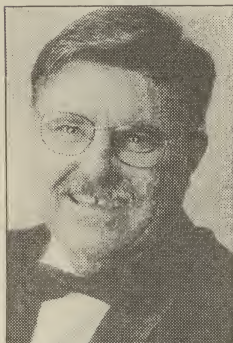
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Goddess worship

'Mission: Dolores Gray' at the Plush Room,
'Black Market Marlene' at Piaf's

by Jim Van Buskirk

What is it with gay men and female stars? Is it that the complex combinations of strength and vulnerability, romance and unimpassioned resolve, yearning and stoicism revealed by *The Women* represent some of what we feel but don't dare express? I realize it's a question asked before, but it's always fascinating to see it acted out (or "sung out, Louise") onstage.



Bill Cooper

Bill Cooper recently blew into town from Los Angeles for his annual weekend stint at the Plush Room. I didn't recognize Cooper's name but the clever title of his act, *Mission: Dolores Gray*, was enough to lure me into the cozy cabaret on a gray Sunday afternoon.

Cooper began with the peppy "A Lot of Livin' to Do!" from *Bye Bye Birdie*. and later did "How Lovely to Be A Woman." Maybe because I too adored Ann-Margret as kid, I was ready for the ride. Announcing that he was a "Beautician on a Mission—What a Ball!" (to the tune of Irving Berlin's "The Hostess with the Mostes" on the Ball" from *Call Me Madam*), Cooper then spent the next 90 minutes weaving the story of his own life with his admiration for female performers. The wit of his songs' customized lyrics reminded me of those irreverently reworked musicals in *Mad* magazine.

Cooper's voice was pleasant,

nothing special, it even cracked a little now and then. But I was quickly won over. Here was a middle-aged queen up onstage, singing songs, sharing stories and having a ball. His pleasure was palpable, and the audience ate it up. Throughout an eclectic mix of songs like "Here's That Rainy Day," "Alive" from *Applause*, and Cole Porter's "From This Moment On," he was ably accompanied by local pianist-about-town Barry Lloyd. Together they sang a delightful duet of "Together" from *Gypsy* combined with "Friendship" from *Du Barry Was a Lady*. Using the songs, some famous, some obscure, Cooper paid homage to his favorite performers, such as Susan Johnson, Selma Diamond, and of course, Dolores Gray.



James Beaman as Dietrich

Androgyne Marlene

James Beaman's devotion to Marlene Dietrich, currently on show at Piaf's, takes a slightly different direction. In *Black Market Marlene*, Beaman, wearing white tie, top hat and tails, impeccably impersonated an androgynous Dietrich. Without a word of dialogue and never breaking character, he affected the studied nonchalance and seductive aloofness of Lili Marlene. Beaman opened with, what else, Dietrich's signature "Black Market," capturing the odd quality of Dietrich's unique

vocalizing and the peculiar pronunciation of certain consonants. Beaman's genderbending Dietrich was so on-target that I recalled Robert Preston reminding Julie Andrews in *Victor/Victoria*, "Remember you're a woman, playing a man, playing a woman." Only in reverse.

Dietrich's 1932 hit *Blonde Venus* was represented with "I Couldn't Be Annoyed," "You Little So-and-So," and "Hot Voodoo," the last choreographed with a life-like two-foot-high voodoo puppet created by Randy Carfagno. Throwing his blonde-wigged head back with a throaty laugh and batting his heavily mascaraed eyelashes, Beaman swaggered and strutted up and down the restaurant's main aisle as if it were a runway, suggestively caressing audience members until he dragged my unsuspecting date onstage to sing *Seven Sinners*' "The Man's in the Navy."

Equally at ease in English, French or German, his melancholy medley of "Ruins of Berlin" from *Foreign Affair* and "Allein in Einer Grossen Stadt" ("Alone in a Big City") captured the alienation of the international star. David Maicco on piano and Christoph Eising on accordion turned Piaf's into a Weimar-era cabaret, or a Hollywood soundstage version of one.

With a nod to Dietrich's dear friend Edith Piaf, he sang a poignant "La Vie en Rose," and a remarkably romantic "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face" combined with "Blonde Women" from *Blue Angel*. And yes, the familiar Dietrich stutick was there: climbing atop the piano, and later sitting astride a backward bentwood chair. Even the simple effect of a black veil over the head for the finale of "Just a Gigolo" was eerily affecting.

New York-based Beaman's masterful recreation of his beloved icon is currently at Piaf's through May 16. The run includes a few performances as his award-winning *Bacall: By Himself*. Where would we be without our goddesses? ▼

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TELEVISION

Show me the ratings!

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Well, it's officially May sweeps — the big, fun finale to the TV season. For the next few weeks, you can expect to be treated to (or inundated with) spectacular movie and miniseries "events," extravagant sit-com weddings, and violent cliffhangers on Fox and the WB. Then it will be the endless wasteland of summer TV reruns of shows you never wanted to see the first time around (as Tinky Winky would say, "Again!"). When the 1998 Christmas programs start repeating around mid-July and all the good films have been rented at your local video out-



Lavender Tube

let, you'll find yourself trying to get cable at midnight on a Tuesday. But for now, revel in the moment — there's actually some good TV out there.

Good isn't exactly the term we would use to describe last week's *Saturday Night Live*, but it certainly was a ratings-grabber. Oscar-winner Cuba Gooding Jr. hosted and definitely deserves the good-sport award for allowing himself to be totally upstaged (perhaps gutter-sniped would be a more accurate term) by Monica Lewinsky, making her official comedy debut (in case there was anyone in America who *hadn't* gotten a laugh at her expense). Monica (may we call you Monica? We feel we know you — well — intimately), fresh from the brawl at Joe's Pub in Manhattan (and we do not like seeing our gal Camryn Manheim linked with Monica, especially in a nasty public fracas!), was everything her demo tapes — oh, we meant wiretaps — would have led one to expect: A few jokes about dipping the pen (we thought it was a cigar) in the company ink, and a bit with Barbara Walters following her around for phone sex advice.

Apparently, Monica's *soignée* look on the Barbara Walters interview was a fluke. She's back to shopping the fat-girl racks at Loehmann's (the Gap doesn't carry her size; she gives new meaning to the term "cargo pants"); three different outfits on *SNL* — all black, all maternally, all showing just a hint of the infamous cleavage (memo to Monica: the axiom about black being slimming only goes so far, just ask Delta Burke and Roseanne; give in to your genes and learn to love color). Interestingly, the only one sporting a thong (well, a teeny speedo on his not-so-teeny equipment) on *SNL* Saturday was Gooding — flashing his bare buttocks, oh my, and in a queer skit, no less, with cast reg Chris Kattan. Seeing Miss Monica in basic battleship black made us ponder: If Gooding had shown the Prez the same thong action he showed the *SNL* audience, we could be talking *real* scandal in the White House. (After all, Susan MacDougall noted that Clinton flirts with *everyone* — "He even flirts with men," she told *Dateline* last year. And she meant it as a compliment.)

Royal wedding

Yes, *SNL* gets more queer every week, leading us to believe that the ratings smash *Will & Grace* has influenced NBC execs. Speaking of *W&G*, tonight's season finale features Jack marrying a man in a Princess Di gown, and Will and

Grace kissing (we don't want to know what this means). *W&G* has been throwing Grace and Karen together a lot lately; last episode found them asleep on the sofa in a pose we distinctly remember from sleep-away camp. Will and Jack returned home to find the two in *dishville*. Jack exclaimed, "Suffering Sappho!" Indeed.

We were pleased to see Will's internalized homophobia addressed last episode (he complains to Grace that Jack is "such a fag"). An appalled Grace forces Will to come to terms with his issues over Jack's flaminess. Over the heads of most straight viewers, we imagine, yet we know a few "straight-acting" Log Cabinettes we think should be made to watch — preferably à la Malcolm McDowell's aversion therapy in *A Clockwork Orange*.

ABC, fresh from ditching the lifeless *Ellen*, nevertheless inserts queer moments into their hetcoms whenever possible. Our guilty pleasure this season, *It's Like, You Know...*, which is like, hilarious, had a dialogue going on this week between Arthur and Robbie over finding other men handsome. They touch on the queer aspect, but don't falter. Robbie wondered if one should be worried or flattered if a gay man found him attractive (not much of a stretch given how hungrily queer he seems). Flattered, says Arthur; after all, he explains, gay men are "basically shopping the same aisle as women." Nicely done. No queer fear here.

Crushed

Queer fear was, of course, a central issue of the Jenny Jones trial which ended last week in a \$25 million judgment against Jones and her producers. The suit brought by the family of Scott Amedure, who was murdered by Jonathan Schmitz after appearing on a "secret crush" episode of Jones's show, claimed the "ambush" nature of TV shows like *Jenny Jones* creates the kind of atmosphere that causes people to commit murder.

We certainly feel for Amedure's family. But regardless of how sleazy one may find Springer, Jones, *et al.*, the fact is, while TV may make one feel murderous, it doesn't make one murderous. Jones didn't pull the trigger on Amedure, Schmitz did. Finding Jones guilty not only absolves Schmitz of responsibility for premeditated murder, but is predicated on the highly homophobic concept that queer fear is an embarrassment worth killing over. Perhaps on TV, but not in real life. Why didn't the Amedures sue the NRA for making guns the national pastime?

We would also like to remind people about that pesky item, the First Amendment. While the Second Amendment seems to be all the — pardon the pun — rage these days, *numero uno* actually has some merit. If Jones and Company are liable for inspiring murderous queer fear, then what kind of chilling effect will that have on queer TV? Or on any kind of TV discourse someone finds distasteful — and let's face it, that's usually queers. So don't toast the verdict too quickly, dears. This one comes under the heading *be careful what you wish for*.

One thing we were certainly

wishing for this week was more smooching between Neve Campbell and Olivia d'Abo (we love the accent but hate the hair; it does not convince us she is femme, only that she has a straight hairdresser). *Party of Five* has certainly decided to make the most of sweeps. We see so few lesbian moments on network TV, we're happy to embrace a little bisexual experimentation. (And apparently so were the actors. Campbell told *Entertainment Tonight* that many young women experiment with other women, while d'Abo noted that Campbell "really planted one on me." Hubba-hubba. We won't mind reprising this one come summer.)

Alas, some items won't be reprised. *Melrose Place* has breathed its last. We will certainly miss Heather Locklear in all her L'Oreal glory. We have no idea what the soap divas will watch instead, though we recommend that other Spelling vehicle, *Sunset Beach*. There is no campier — or hunkier — show on any network. Eddie Cibrian (Cole) continues to be the heartthrob (among other throbbing elements) of West Hollywood, if our sources are to be believed. And Sarah Buxton is truly the Marion Davies of the '90s (that would be the 1990s, of course).

Finally, our queer quote of the week came from comedian and political pundit Dennis Miller on *The Tonight Show*. Discussing the endless cycle of *Dateline* with Leno he noted: "The only thing stiffer than Stone Phillips is Richard Simmons watching him." Talk about sweating to the oldies. ▼

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Random acts of violins

Mixed bag in recent San Francisco Symphony programs

by Philip Campbell

After three weeks of guest conductors, all-over-the-map programming and some highly variable results, regular patrons of the San Francisco Symphony must be feeling a certain relief at the return this week of Michael Tilson Thomas.

When MTT strides to the podium he can rest assured that his musicians have done their best in his absence. It is hardly their fault if concerts have been a mixed bag of warmed-over favorites, obscure curiosities and modern works ranging from the mediocre to the sublime.

We can quickly dispense with the visit of German conductor Claus Peter Flor. His all-Beethoven evening must have seemed a safe bet to stuff in at the end of a week that featured a much-publicized collaboration between Metallica and the SFS. The loud, louder, loudest rockers have proven to be surprisingly intelligent with age, while the dull approach to Olympus by Herr Flor simply showed the orchestra to be amazing sight readers (though they could probably play this repertoire with their eyes closed).

It was left to pianist Gerhard Oppitz to pump some adrenaline into a drowsy evening with his bright and accurate reading of the Piano Concerto No. 1. A pleasing-

ly unsentimental central movement led into the wonderfully odd Rondo: Allegro with its wacky pre-echoes of Carmen Miranda carioca. It may not have been worthy of a standing ovation, but the sluggish *Leonore* Overture No. 2 that preceded it and the pedestrian Symphony No. 6 in F major, *Pastoral* that followed had me thanking Oppitz all the way home.



Conductor David Zinman

David Zinman has led the SFS on numerous occasions, and his most recent visit was a pleasant, if no big wup event. Let me qualify that — the first Symphony performances of Schumann's previ-

ously suppressed Violin Concerto in D minor were a big deal, even if the work itself is actually pretty harmless. The overreaction of the composer's contemporaries to his dementia and early demise, along with misunderstandings and politics among musicians and family, created an easily solved mystery that took years to unravel. Hearing violinist Christian Tetzlaff in his immaculate rendition, one could only wonder at all the previous fuss. It is a technically difficult, often lovely piece that will hardly supplant other masterworks in the genre, but is more than worthy of random hearings.

Composer Steven Mackey's *Lost and Found* opened the Symphony's 1996-97 Gala, and his music has also been featured at "Mavericks" concerts at the end of the regular season. A good-looking fellow with wit and considerable performing abilities of his own, he remains a fairly unremarkable writer. His new work, *Eating Greens*, is the longest I have heard to date, and it is ambitious and likable, but Mackey still seems underripe, and the score is enjoyable but forgettable. The arrival of a pizza delivery person in "Part I: Religion, Food, Art" was a funny touch and the author's way of bringing a meandering section to a close, but also evidence of an unsure touch and easy reliance on effect over substance.

The sunny Dvorak Symphony No. 5 in F major, Opus 76 that

closed the concert was well played and received too, but it also hardly resonated in the memory, and the performance will hardly rate as important as the unveiling of the Schumann Violin Concerto.



Composer George Benjamin

Thorns and light

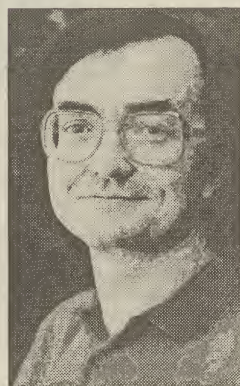
British composer George Benjamin has brought us his music in various circumstances in the past, and he has an international reputation of great distinction. I cannot share the unalloyed enthusiasm of many musicians and critics for his alternately thorny and luminous scores, but I do "get" what he is aiming for most of the time and often find his work absorbing.

Viola, Viola in its first United States performances was an unqualified success. Concise, impassioned and highly original, Benjamin's work — as wonderfully enacted by Geraldine Walther and Yun-Jie Liu — proved that the composer is best in short form and a worthy recipient of the late composer Toru Takemitsu's trust. It was that late genius who came up with the idea and commission of a viola duo.

There are long lines and punctuations throughout the piece that provide signposts for the listener and create an uncanny effect of more than just two players at work. Bravo, Benjamin; a pity your *Three Inventions* on the second half of the bill (first San Francisco performances) were less involving. The influence of Takemitsu is more than apparent throughout, especially in the haunting opening I. Molto Tran-

quillo, in the memory of Olivier Messiaen. The short second movement and the longer, noisier third are good but unexceptional, and I found myself pining for the music of the more original inspirational source.

One very vocal audience member certainly disagreed with my response to the evening's biggest event — the amazing traversal of Gyorgy Ligeti's equally amazing Piano Concerto by Pierre-Laurent Aimard. His lusty boos directly opposed my numb astonishment, but it was pleasing to note that Ligeti could still polarize a sophisticated audience.



Pierre-Laurent Aimard

The jazzy opening of the concerto is but a curtain-raiser to the harrowing and exuberant sections that follow. By the extended close, when the pianist seems to be deconstructing his instrument with particular violence, most listeners are sure to have formed a strong opinion. Mine is that Ligeti is capable of just about anything in his mad inventiveness and prodigious talent. When filmmaker Stanley Kubrick lifted the composer's *Atmospheres* for unapproved use in 2001: A Space Odyssey, Ligeti was displeased, but filmmakers were introduced to his unique sound world. Kubrick's piracy was really the recognition of one master by another.

Michael Tilson Thomas will only have one spectacular scandal to match when he returns with his Ravel and Stravinsky program this week, but one feels confident that he will top it at least once during the Stravinsky Festival that is coming in June. ▼

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Farewell to a voluptuous beauty

Sabina Allemann's last dance for the San Francisco Ballet

by Stephanie von Buchau

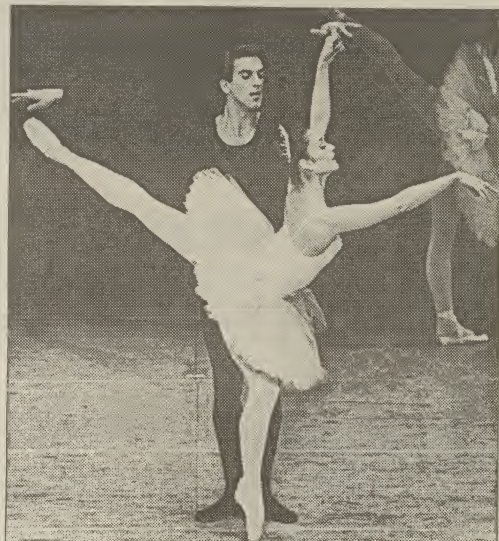
Evelyn Cisneros' retirement from the San Francisco Ballet last week was a splashy public event, as befits a much-loved dancer and audience favorite who served her art for 21 honorable years in this city.

Sabina Allemann's retirement was less public, but no less heartfelt. The ballerina, who is leaving at the height of her communicative powers for a life of leisure — after 11 years at SFB, she's earned it — said goodbye last Friday night at the War Memorial in a modest but touching farewell.

If you are a casual ballet fan, you know who Evelyn Cisneros is, but you may never have heard of Sabina Allemann. Or, like the chattering ladies behind me, you may think of her as "Sabrina." No one with eyes could confuse the voluptuous Allemann with the rail-thin Audrey Hepburn. Unlike many contemporary ballerinas, Sabina Allemann, though she appears tiny off stage, on stage is a goddess, with the body and artistic soul of a woman, not a brain-dead teen.

The first time I ever saw the Swiss-born ballerina, when she joined SFB in 1988 from the National Ballet of Canada, where she had trained and danced for half a dozen years, I don't remember the work. I just remember the thighs. All ballet dancers have fabulous muscle tone, but some legs are skinnier, tauter, knottier than others. Allemann's thighs had a luxurious seductiveness that reminded me of the magisterial Bolshoi diva Nina Timofeyeva.

In *Spartacus*, that kitschy but exciting Bolshoi production that toured here in the '70s, Timofeyeva played the villainess; when she trapped Maris Liepa's villain with those crushers, it was the sexiest thing I'd ever seen on a ballet stage. I kept wishing SFB would give Allemann a *femme fatale* role. She danced all the classics (Juliet, Aurora, Odette-Odile, the Sylph), and Helgi Tomasson even made a "dramatic" work for



Sabina Allemann and Ashley Wheater in *Symphony in C*

her, the ill-fated *Reflections of St. Joan*, but it wasn't until Kenneth MacMillan's *The Invitation* this season that Allemann was rewarded with a plum role that literally stole the show.

As the beautiful wife whose husband strays, she abased herself heartbreakingly at his cheating feet, then gathered her resolve to seduce Vadim Solomahka's innocent young man. I wish SFB had excerpted that duet for Allemann's farewell, instead of Tomasson's anodyne *Valses Poeticos*, which she dances beautifully (partnered by the attentive Cyril Pierre), but which ignores her all-out personality in favor of pretty, conventional stage romance.

However, the choice of "The Man I Love" from Balanchine's *Who Cares* was inspired, as it brought back Allemann's most frequent partner, Ashley Wheater. The dishy blond Scotsman was forced to retire from SFB (he's now ballet master) after

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English schoolboy follies

Queer coming-out drama 'Get Real'

by Gary Morris

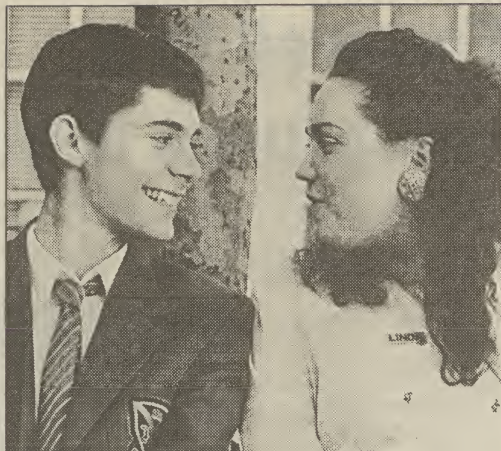
A film with scenes of a trim 16-year-old schoolboy dawdling decoratively outside a public toilet hoping a trick will stroll by would seem to have little chance of passing the "concerned" cops, paranoid parents, rabid religious, and other busybody groups that ruthlessly monitor such stuff—at least in America. Leave it to the British to buck this trend.

Simon Shore's *Get Real* not only focuses lovingly, comically on such scenes; it dares to portray them with a sunny palette, in broad daylight, with little of that sense of anxiety and terror that typically characterizes such cinematic moments. This points to both the strengths and weaknesses of this often engaging queer coming-out drama. The welcome light touch that keeps Steven

Carter's preoccupation with finding a boyfriend from becoming a dreary guilt-fest ultimately drains some of the drama. Even in scenes that would seem to demand a certain harshness—various gay-bashings, a police raid on the park, a very public coming-out—there's not much doubt that things will eventually turn out fine. The fact that the story is set in the upper-middle-class suburb of Basingstoke—a conscious attempt to "move away from the gritty social realism prevalent in British films today," according to the press notes—only furthers this notion.

Steven Carter (Ben Silverstone) is a queer boy for the '90s; his closet door is always a bit ajar. Unable to entirely suppress who he is, but unwilling to confront those around him, he nonetheless spends much of his time in plain view on a park bench in front of a public john, obviously trying to

score, and oblivious of being discovered. He blatantly moons over high school heartthrob and track star John Dixon (Brad Gorton), triggering the wrath of Dixon's 'phobic mates, who instantly divine the faggot behind the facade of sensitive young intellectual. Steven's home life is humdrum; he finds solace from his dimwitted bourgeois parents with his neighbor Linda (the very wonderful Charlotte Brittain), a sarcastic but simpatico fag hag who has her own romantic problem trying to seduce her driving instructor. Window dressing and subplots are provided by other mildly angst-ridden teens falling in and out of love: Steven's best friend Mark is after Wendy, the editor of the school magazine, whose best friend is Jessica, who's cluelessly pursuing Steven after dumping homophobic Kevin, Steven's main nemesis.

Ben Silverstone and Charlotte Brittain in *Get Real*

Public schooling

One of the unusual things about *Get Real* is the way it plays the public sex scenes for poignancy and laughs. Steven's incompetence at cruising has the ring of reality, as he mistakes a handsome trick for a devoted lover. The man turns out to be not only married, but also one of his father's business clients. (Steven, and the audience, gets a first-hand look at the potential horrors of middle-class straight life in this scene, with the once-glamorous trick now saddled with a screaming baby and nagging wife.) While the anxiety and danger associated with public tricking have frequently been aired (think *Cruising*), rarely have we seen the pesky details that threaten to capsize a budding tryst. In this case, it's an out-of-ink pen that nearly proves Steven's undoing, as he's sitting in a toilet stall trying to write his phone number on a piece of toilet paper for the anxious trick on the other side of the glory hole.

The anxious trick turns out to be the true object of Steven's lust: John Dixon. Their early scenes together, with Dixon torn between lust and guilt, have an emotional authenticity that anchors the film. Dixon's a credible cad all too familiar in queer circles—the jock who's desperate to maintain the fiction of bourgeois heterosexuality. He has the obligatory model-

girlfriend, sports car, and impending Oxford education while secretly indulging his queer side with someone who's expected to be available for secret sex but also to endure public snubbing and sometimes assaults. The film gives Dixon long scenes in which to explain his pain, which sometimes work and sometimes don't, perhaps because this is actor Brad Gorton's first film. Ben Silverstone's Steven Carter fares better; he's consistently believable as a boy who insists on following his feelings in spite of clueless peers and parents, frequent bashings and near-bashings, and a potentially harrowing scene of being chased through a park by the police.

The felicitously named Patrick Wilde, author of the play *What's Wrong with Angry* on which the film was based, said he wrote it because "I was sick of being told by people—even gay people—that it's easier to be gay now.... But I don't believe it's easier than it ever was to come out." Ben Silverstone's winning personality makes the film's most important scene, Steven's coming out, memorable and affecting, but, in spite of the playwright's words, perhaps a little too easy. ▼

Get Real opens Friday, May 14 in San Francisco.

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Simon Shore

◀ Arts cover

at the family wedding they're attending. Linda asks, "Steven, are you sure you shouldn't just tell your parents the truth?"

Steven responds, "I want to go back to Basingstoke."

"Sweetheart," Linda replies, "no one ever wants to go back to Basingstoke!"

Like Celebration, Florida or Littleton, Colorado, Basingstoke stands for all the things British baby boomer parents want to give their kids, or rather protect them from. In *Get Real*, a film from first-time director Simon Shore, Basingstoke represents the desire of the post-Thatcher middle class not to grasp even the possibility that their kids could be queer or "dodgy." Shore says that *Get Real* was adapted from a play, *What's Wrong with Angry*, by openly gay writer Patrick Wilde. In the play, Steven and John fall in love at an all-boys Catholic School—their path to happiness blocked by the British law banning sex between males below the age of eighteen. (Interestingly enough, there never has been a prohibition on sex between women of any age, because, as Shore explains in a recent in-

terview, "Queen Victoria refused to believe that women did those things.") Shore argues that "the people who pass these laws claim to be protecting young people, while actually what they're doing is creating a situation where the only place where they can meet other gay people is to go in secret to the woods or the men's room and put themselves in incredible danger."

Power of the pen

In seeking to make their story less British and more universal, Shore and Wilde moved it from the Catholic boys school and placed it inside Basingstoke, a town that even Gilbert and Sullivan ridiculed as boring. In *Get Real*, Steven makes an effort to come out at school by posting an anonymous article in the yearbook. In real life, the filmmakers encountered a 16-year-old queer boy from Basingstoke "who, when he realized he was gay, had never met another gay person. There was nowhere to go for advice—no gay crisis lines, no gay publications and certainly no gay bars. So he came out by writing an essay for his English class." Shore and Wilde employed part of this real gay boy's cry for help in Steven's article that

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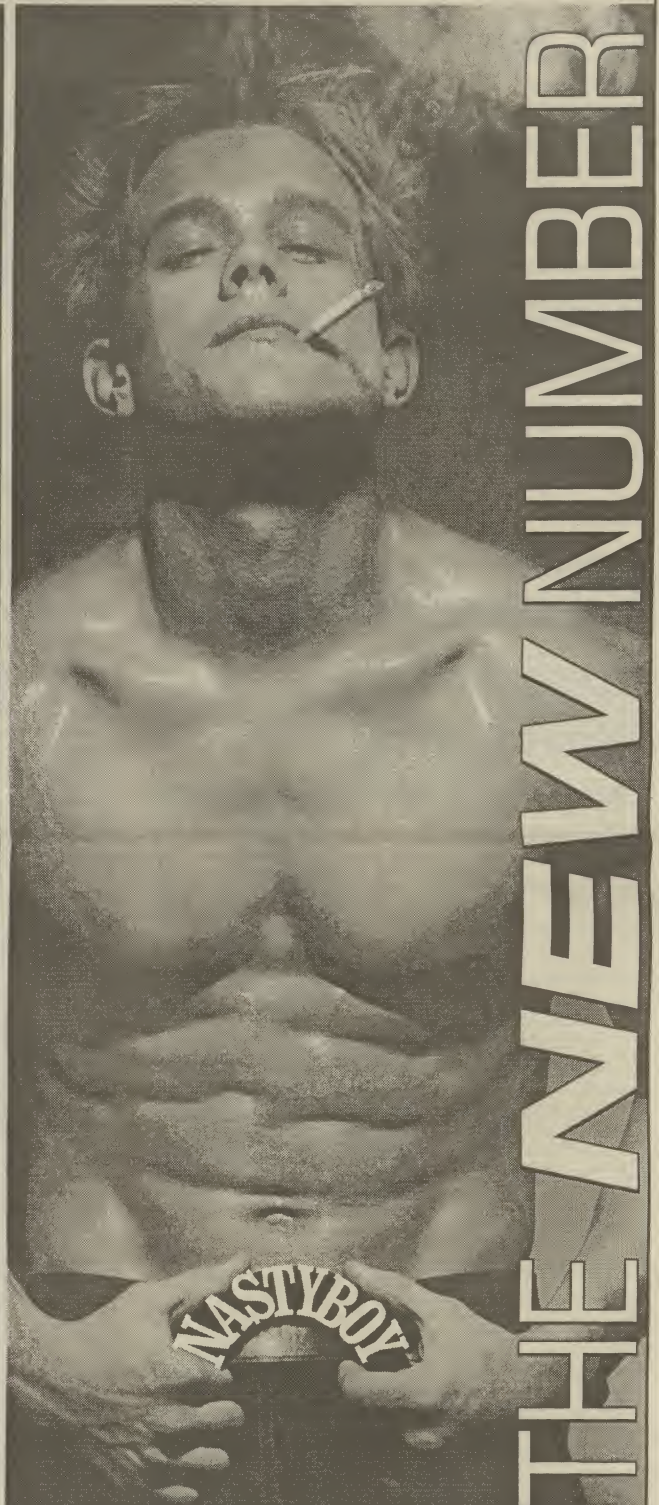
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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 14

Jon Sims Center

AIRspace artists-in-residence Miguel Garcia and Compania "Viva La Vida" showcase the photography of Rex Marin, paintings of Sean Papillon, music by S.K. Thoth and M. Garcia, and a theatre piece, *The Myth of Male Beauty* "Narcissus." \$5-\$10 donation at door. 8:30pm. Also on 6/11. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"Shut Up and Love Me!" Karen Finley returns to SF with her new show, an upbeat, spoken-word cabaret of salacious memoirs. Find out the truth about her publicly abusive psychosexual relationships with politicians Oren Hatch, Jesse Helms, Pat Buchanan, and Bill Clinton. Lick substances off Karen for money. \$25. 8pm (2pm Sunday). Thru 5/16. 25 Van Ness Ave., lower lobby. 861-8972.

The Lab

Opening reception: "Conundrum," de-

fined as "1. A riddle in which a fanciful question is answered with a pun. 2. A paradoxical, insoluble, or difficult problem; a dilemma. (origin unknown)." An exhibition featuring the works of Howie Cherman, Deidre DeFranceaux, and Susan Green. Free. 6-9pm. Show runs thru 6/12. 2948 16th St. Info: 864-8855.

New College Theater

"Re: Reading *The New American Poetry*," anticipating the re-release of what essayist Alan Golding termed "the singlemost influential poetry anthology of the post-World War II period." Tonight Golding squares off with fellow essayist Marjorie Perloff, debating the anthology's merits, especially in light of its nearly excluding women and people of color. Free. 7:30pm. 777 Valencia St.

A Traveling Jewish Theatre

"Shtick! — A Queer Play on Jewish Vaudeville," written and performed by Sara Felder. Directed by Jayne Wenger. A reinterpretation of Yiddish culture hospitable to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews. A mosaic of comic clowning and satire.

8pm (2pm & 7pm Sundays). Thru 5/30. 470 Florida St. (at 17th & Mission). 399-1809.

County Fair Bldg.

"Dragons and Durian," a taste of the Eastern Islands of Indonesia. Sample uncommon Southeast Asian dishes, listen to island music, learn to prepare traditional foods, peruse ethnobotanical artifacts for sale. Benefits the Indonesian component of Striding Arboretum's Old World Cloud Forest Project. \$20 (\$10 students/children). 7-9pm. Corner of 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way. Reservations: 661-1316, ext. 306.

Cowell Theater

"Darbar," a dance-drama depicting life in North India's courts through the traditional storytelling of Kathak dance. Performed by the Chitresh Das Dance Company. General: \$18 (\$16 students/seniors). Preferred seating: \$25 (\$50 with post-performance reception). 7:30pm. Also on 5/15. Fort Mason Center. Tix: 441-3687 or (510) 548-4110.

Theatre Rhinoceros

"Fed Up: A Cannibal's Own Story," a new play by Ricardo A. Bracho, directed by Reginald McDonald. A burlesque, love story, and exorcism in two acts. Four gay men of color take a magical trip from San Francisco down the coast and encounter a surreal gang of cannibals who look much like themselves. \$12-\$20. 8pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Brady Street Dance Center

"Always Falling," featuring Lizz Roman & Dancers accompanied by spoken-word and eerie musical sounds, featuring butch-dyke poet Kassy Kayiatos and the chamber pop group Amber Asylum. \$12. 8:30pm. Also on 5/15. 60 Brady St. 558-9355.

Victoria Theatre

"Andrea Chenier," presented by the SF Lyric Opera, directed by Colby Roberts. Fully staged, sung in Italian, with English superlites. Conducted by Alexander Katsman. \$10-\$20. 7:30pm. Also on 5/15, 23. 16th St. at Capp (near Mission St.). Info: 641-9927.

Josie's

"The Legend Returns," featuring New Zealanders Helen Moulder and Rose Beauchamp delivering their brassy, sassy, classy comic take on the world of menopausal opera divas. \$15. 8pm. Also on 5/15, 16 (\$12, 6pm on Sun.). Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 16th St. at Market. 861-7933.

Sat 15

Golden Gate Park

"The World's Biggest Frisbee Golf Weekend," co-sponsored by Friends of Recreation & Parks and the San Francisco Disc Golf Club. The game is played and scored much like traditional golf, by attempting to toss frisbees into elevated wire baskets. \$12 registration. 8am-6pm. Today's course is for beginners; tomorrow (5/16) at noon, the course switches to a pro layout. Registration: Greg Quiroga, 474-3434 (youth call Mike Nicolson, 750-5110). Info: www.sfparks.org.



S.K. Thoth fiddles at the Jon Sims Center as AIRspace presents a night of music, art, and theater. See Friday.

Harvey Milk Institute
Workshops & classes: "The Ps and Qs of Gay Male Dating," with Jamie Moran. \$25. 12:30-4:30pm. "Exploration of Your Subconscious Through the Use of Collage and Photo Montage," with Iris Sandkühler. \$20. 12:30-4:30pm.

"Our San Francisco Bi-Stories, Part I: the 70s and 80s," with Lani Ka'ahumanu. \$20. 1-4pm. Sessions held at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200.

Herbst Pavilion, Ft. Mason

San Francisco Art Institute Spring Show and Open House, an exhibition of works in all media by graduating Master of Fine Arts students. One of the city's most comprehensive and respected annual arts events, showcasing some of the finest emerging artists working today. Free. Exhibition catalog \$10. Info: 749-4588. SFAI Events Hotline: 749-4545. A Lota Gelato & More Cafe open noon-5pm.

SF Art Institute

"My Life on the Wicked Stage," featuring the legendary Kitty Carlisle Hart, who recently completed a 20-year tenure as head of the New York State Council on the Arts. Among her pals have been Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and George and Ira Gershwin. A benefit for SFAI. \$100 (\$350 patrons; \$500 benefactors). 6pm reception; 7pm performance. 800 Chestnut St. Reservations 749-4569 or 749-4595.

New Langton Arts

"Bottom Shelf Blockbusters," an evening of B-Movie masterworks from the Mission District. Largely unnoticed by the public, these movies are too weird for mass consumption. Featuring film and video from George Kuchar, Curt McDowell, The Illinore Show, and others. \$8 (\$6 students/seniors). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn. 8th & 9th). 626-5416.

Cathedral of St. Mary's

"Noche de Salsa '99," a dance hosted by and benefitting Shanti's El Programa Latino and Instituto Familiar de la Raza. Dance to the music of Conjunto Céspedes. Join hundreds

raising donations to participate, or pay \$20 admission at the door. Prizes awarded to best dancers. 8pm-midnight. Cathedral of St. Mary's Conference Center, 1111 Gough St. Reservations: 674-4764.

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

"Fiesta de Negro/Black Party," for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends. Black clothing encouraged. Potluck dinner and socializing. 6:30-10pm. For details, call Juan Carlos at 863-7087.

A.C.T. Hastings Studio Theater

"The Automata Pietà" by Constance Congdon, directed by Craig Slaughter, performed by eight actors ranging in age from 15 to 18. Commissioned by the A.C.T. Young Conservatory's New Plays Program. Free. 2pm & 7pm. Also on 5/16 at 2pm. 30 Grant Ave., 6th floor. Seating limited. Reservations required: 439-2444.

Josie's

"Saturday Night Gay Comedy" featuring Sabrina Matthews along with gay caballero Doug Holsclaw. With token straight comic Marty McGibbon. A funny three-way. \$10. 10pm.

Sun 16

BACW Marin Hike

Join Bay Area Career Women in traversing some of the most beautiful and lesser-known trails in Marin County. The wildflowers will be blooming. Leaders know the trails well. Free to all. Info: (415) 380-9405.

A Different Light

Photographer Steven Underhill signs copies of his latest work, *Twins*, showcasing the shapely figures and winning smiles of two loving brothers in briefs. Free.

3:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Josie's

"Beth Waters in Concert," in which the sensational young singer/songwriter performs material from her new CD, *Don't Look Back*. \$7. 8pm.

Metropolitan Community Church

AIDS Candlelight Vigil Worship Service. Begin the march with a time of prayer, singing, remembrance and hope. Then join the march to Civic Center at 8pm. Participants include Unitarian, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist and MCC pastors. 7-7:45pm. 150 Eureka St. (btwn. 18th & 19th). Info: Rev. Jim Mitulski, 865-2740.

Mon 17

Sadhana Brothers

This gay men's Hindu/yogic fellowship meets tonight for chanting, meditation, and socializing. 7pm. Info: Ed at 647-4388.

Josie's

"Open Mic Gay Comedy," hosted by comedian Suzy Berger. \$5. 8pm. No reservations required.

Alliance Française

French music recital featuring French-Canadian Soprano Hélène Bolduc, accompanied by Pianist Maryanne Kim. She sings works by Debussy, Ravel, Bizet and Poulenc. \$15. 7pm. 1345 Bush St. (btwn. Polk & Larkin). RSVP: 775-7755.

Tue 18

A Different Light

Renowned author Susan Griffin, one of the most elegant and insightful writers of our time, reads from and signs copies of *What Her Body Thought*. It explores the subject of the body and her own experience with illness. Free. 7:30pm.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Lesbian love, Nazi hatred

Victims of the Holocaust may be lost forever, but their stories continue to be unearthed. Such is the case with the ill-fated love affair between two Berliners during the Nazi era, Lilly Wust and Felice Schragenheim. Their story only recently came to light thanks to one of Vienna's foremost feminist writers and journalists, Erica Fischer, the Austrian-Jewish author of *Aimee and Jaguar*. Fischer, who now lives in Berlin, wrote the book after meeting Wust, who was then 80. The story that emerged is a telling example of how Nazism terrorized lesbians, even though lesbians were not specifically targeted by the regime.



Lilly Wust and Felice Schragenheim, 1944.

On the surface, Wust was all the Nazis admired, having given birth to four "racially pure Aryan" sons, for which they gave her an award. But Wust had a secret: she had met and fallen in love with Felice Schragenheim, a Jewish lesbian passing as non-Jewish, who was involved with the Jewish underground resistance. Their affair continued for 18 months, until the day they arrived home to find the Gestapo in their apartment.

Such stories, seldom if ever noted among the casualties of that dark time, will be detailed in "Lesbians and the Holocaust," an afternoon of film and discussion presented by the Holocaust Center of Northern California and co-sponsored by the Harvey Milk Institute, Spectrum Center/Marin County, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, The Lesbian/Gay Historical Society, SF Dyke March, and Kung Pao Kosher Comedy.

Erica Fischer will be among the panelists at the event, which includes a screening of the documentary feature film *Love Story*, directed by Catrine Clay and based on Fischer's book.

Also on hand will be Claudia Schoppmann, author of the critically acclaimed *Days of Masquerade: Life Stories of Lesbians During the Third Reich*. A Berlin resident, Schoppmann is widely regarded as this generation's expert on the subject of lesbians and the Holocaust.

A second screening at the event, of filmmaker Alexandra Von Grote's *November Moon*, tells of one woman's apparent Nazi collaboration during the German occupation of France. In fact, the woman was covertly attempting to save the life of the Jewish woman she loved. ▼

"Lesbians and the Holocaust" takes place Sunday, May 16 at the Victoria Theater. \$7-\$10 sliding. 3-7:30pm. 2961 16th St. (near Mission). Wheelchair accessible. Reservations: 751-6040.

Noh Space

Theater of Yugen presents Hiroko Shimakawa's *Primavera de Sevilla*, and evening of traditional springtime Flamenco. \$10-\$12. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Project Artaud). 621-7978.

Venue 9

"Sound Advice," written directed and performed by Footloose Artistic Director Mary Alice Fry. Multimedia movement theater incorporating video, live performance (by 10 local actors) and original soundtrack. Plus comedy with Glorinda Marie and Miracle Malone, solo dance by Ruth Botchen, and Butoh dance with multimedia by Molly Barrons. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). 289-2000.

Luna Sea

"From Our Lips: Voices of LesBiGay-Trans and Questioning Young Womyn." Original spoken word & music by Madigan Shive, Beth Riker, Kira Elizabeth Simring, Bethany Maxwell, Adelaide Nalley, Melissa Chadburn. The sistas share it all. Directed by Yolanda S. Vierra Allen. Cosponsored by LYRIC. \$10-\$15. 8pm. Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, 2940 16th St. #216-C. 863-2989.

Wed 19**New Conservatory Theatre Center**

Preview: "Key West," a play by Jack Heifner, directed by Ed Decker. At a clothing-optional resort, two gay men on vacation find their friendship tested when a male stripper, a college student, and a cabana boy enter their lives. Probes the generation gap between older & younger gay men. \$12 for previews and Wednesdays; \$16 Thursdays & Sun. matinees; \$20 Fridays & Saturdays. 8pm (2pm Sun.) Previews thru 6/4; regular run starts 6/5. 25 Van Ness Ave., lower lobby. 861-8972.

A Traveling Jewish Theatre

"Davka," new Jewish art music, blending traditional klezmer melodies, Middle Eastern rhythms, jazz improvisation, and classical technique. Featuring Richard Kaplan and Jeanette Lewicki. \$12. 8pm. 470 Florida St. (at 17th & Mariposa). 399-1809.

Thu 20**Theatre Rhinoceros**

"Johnny Kats in Space." Episode 1: "The Comic Menace." Featuring improvisation and sketch comedy by Joaquin Hebshie, Dawn Corine, Mai Ling, Bryan Reiner and the newest Kat, Mike Gregory. Introducing the first Australian super hero, plus an-



S. Brett Kaufman's photo-collages are among the new works on exhibit at Terrain Gallery. See Thursday.

other chapter of "whitesploitation." \$12. 8:30pm (9pm Fri. & Sat.). Thru 5/29. 2926 16th St. 704-3261.

Asian Art Museum

"A Thursday in May," the second annual community awards and silent auction to benefit the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center. Honoring Johnnie Norway, co-founder of Bay Area Young Positives, St. Francis Memorial Hospital, committed to caring for SF's most vulnerable, including those with HIV/AIDS, and AI and Jane Nakatani, who devote themselves to public education and advocacy. Bidding on tattoo art, cruises, vacations, massages and much more. \$45 general (\$65 w/auction voucher). 6-9pm. Golden Gate Park. Info: 292-3420, ext. 314.

City Lights

Signing & reading: Peter Weltner, celebrating the release of *How the Body Prays* (Graywolf Press). Weltner, a two-time recipient of the O. Henry Award, was featured in *Best American Gay Fiction Volume 3*. He teaches at SF State University. Free. 7pm. City Lights Booksellers & Publishers, 261 Columbus Ave. (North Beach).

A Different Light

Poet, spiritualist, and one-time porn

star Gavin ("The Naked Poet") Geoffrey Dillard reads from and signs copies of *Day for a Lay: An Anthology of Gay Poetry*. As editor and contributor, Dillard has compiled one of the finest collections of queer poetry to appear in recent memory. Free. 7:30pm.

Brady Street Dance Center

"Ravish," soul-nourishing dance by the Erica Essner Performance Co-Op. Erotic fairy tales, sweeping athleticism, and baroque melodies. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Also on 5/21 & 22. 60 Brady St. 558-9355.

Transmission Theater

"Cyberotica," a gender-bending romp through Internet chat rooms, the singles bars of the new Millennium. Written & directed by Kelly Kittell; music by Peter Fogel, Christian Matthews, and Tim Perdue. Featuring Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow, Birdie-Bob Watt, Pippi Lovestocking, and Johnny Kat. \$10. 9pm. Thursdays thru July 29. 314-11th St. (at Folsom). 861-6906.

Terrain Gallery

Opening reception: A new suite of intaglio prints by Robert Davis, chromogenic photo prints by S. Brett Kaufman, and new mixed-media works in digital imaging by Daniel Ross. Free. 5:30-8pm. 165 Jessie St., 2nd floor. 543-0656.

SF Art Institute

Cinematheque screens "Y2K Prophecies," smart new videos by Chip Lord, Gustavo Vazquez, and Guillermo Gomez-Peña. Various looks at humanity's flaws and strengths at the cusp of the new millennium. 7:30pm. 800 Chestnut St. Info: 558-8129.

The Stud

"ElectroDynamics," bringing together fresh bodies and electronic/trance DJs. Trancedelic happy hour starts at 6 p.m., with \$1.75 pints and \$2.50 cocktails. Deep trance dance-beats raise the dance floor till late in the night. With DJs Logos, Marx, Phazer and guests. Friendly, queer, no-attitude eclectica. The Stud Bar, 399 9th St. (at Harrison).

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



The Erica Essner Performance Co-Op dances *Ravish* at Brady St. Dance Center. See Thursday.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Grilled N.Y. Pepper Steak encrusted with cracked pepper, brandy-cream sauce, vegetable, french fries & onion rings\$13.95
Grilled Pork Chops with apple-cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy\$11.95
Chicken Cordon Bleu stuffed with fontina cheese & honey-baked ham\$9.75
Fresh Atlantic Salmon grilled or poached with white wine-lemon-dill sauce, chef's rice or potatoes\$11.75
Prime Rib Au Jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish\$13.95
Fried Calamari with dipping sauce...\$5.75

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SATURDAY NIGHT GAY COMEDY

DOUG HOLSCLOW, SABRINA MATTHEWS, NICK LEONARD 5/15 10PM \$10

5/16 SINGER/SONGWRITER/PIANIST BETH WATERS AT 8PM \$8

OPEN MIC GAY COMEDY WITH M.C. SUZY BERGER 5/17 8PM \$5

5/19 EDDIE TAGGART COVERS DYLAN, CAT STEVENS AND OTHERS IN A NEW WAY 7-10PM FREE

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a love story

directed by
Reginald McDonald

dramaturgy by
Reginald McDonald
with Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas

Theatre Rhinoceros presents the World Premiere of

FED UP: A Cannibal's Own Story

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an exorcism

in two acts

Fantastique

◀ Arts cover

ters and a 1,000-gallon tank.

The audience watches the show through the 60-by-40-inch side of the tank, in which five puppeteers, completely masked from view, maneuver a collection of objects as mundane as a bed sheet and as sophisticated as a fiber-optic crypto-jellyfish. But in the water, and through Twist's manipulations, the mundane can be as fascinating as the higher-end gear.

Twist has set his evocations to the music of Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, an 1830 composition in five movements that provides distinct moods that the production seeks to mirror. Some segments clearly work better than others, and it is always better when the wires and the plastic rods used to move the objects in the water can remain invisible.

The good news is that the 60-minute production opens and closes with its strongest imagery. The results of light beams in water, for example, don't provide particularly compelling impressions.

When *Symphonie Fantastique* is at its best, it is more than just pretty imagery. It can engage the mind as it strikes visual equiva-



Basil Twist

lents of the emotions in Berlioz's music. At times, we may think we see a ghost or a witch or even a Folies Bergere chorus line suddenly emerge, only to quickly melt away. Did we really see that? At *Symphonie Fantastique*, your imagination becomes a partner in the creative process. ▼

***Symphonie Fantastique* is running at the Zeum Theater in Yerba Buena Gardens. Tickets are \$20-\$50 (including a backstage tour for the \$50 tickets). Call 820-3353.**



A scene from *Symphonie Fantastique*

Midsummer's

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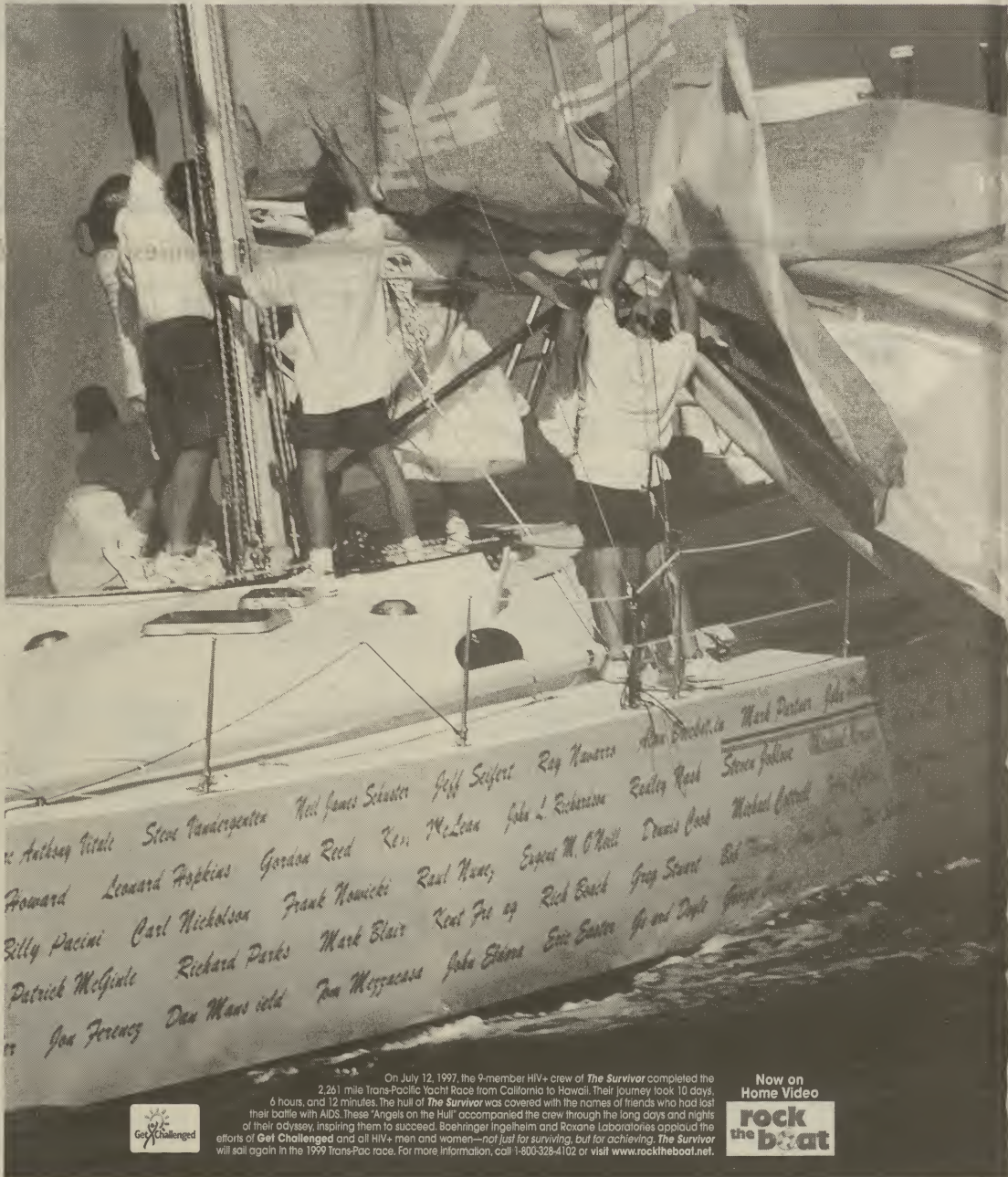
a womanizing dandy and has a wife who speaks Italian (with subtitles), making this English play set in Greece but for some reason now taking place in Tuscany (where enchanted woods are hardly a staple) more than a little geographically schizophrenic.

Dreamy Bottom

Kline can speak the lines, but his slow takes verge on the sentimental. Bottom doesn't just have a dream, he... has... a... DREAM. If there is one thing the original *Dream* is not, it's sentimental. Hoffman's gushy emotions actually make the loftier humans in the film appeal to us more than the faeries or mechanicals. I've never liked a Theseus and Hippolyta as much as David Strathairn and Sophie Marceau. They breathe the luscious sensuality that Hoffman works so hard to instill in the rest of the play. I wouldn't be surprised if Hoffman and his Oscar-winning costume designer, Gabriella Pescucci, decided to set the film in the late 19th century because Marceau looks so spectacular in tight Edwardian gowns.

That also indicates the level of this movie, superficial and decorative, the play heavily cut (though we have to give Hoffman credit for keeping the plot clear at half the length of the original) and packed with visual, musical and emotional overkill. Titania's train is like an Indian funeral procession; her attendants grotesques, dwarves and Lucasfilm aliens. The mismatched couples (Calista Flockhart and Christian Bale; Anna Friel and Dominic West) spend most of their time naked or covered in mud. The "Pyramus and Thisbe" sequence takes an archly contemporary turn when "Thisbe" (Sam Bottoms) rips off his wig, lowers his voice and declaims over the dead "Pyramus" (Kline) in a homoerotic moment that is unearned, unnecessary and unaffectionate. Also inexplicable, like much of this tantalizing, exasperating film. ▼

William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream* is currently playing in Bay Area theatres.



On July 12, 1997, the 9-member HIV+ crew of *The Survivor* completed the 2,261-mile Trans-Pacific Yacht Race from California to Hawaii. Their journey took 10 days, 6 hours, and 12 minutes. The hull of *The Survivor* was covered with the names of friends who had lost their battle with AIDS. These "Angels on the Hull" accompanied the crew through the long days and nights of their odyssey, inspiring them to succeed. Boehringer Ingelheim and Roxane Laboratories applauded the efforts of *Get Challenged* and all HIV+ men and women—not just for surviving, but for achieving. *The Survivor* will sail again in the 1999 Trans-Pac race. For more information, call 1-800-328-4102 or visit www.rocktheboat.net.



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A scene from *The Stendhal Syndrome*.

Hell in the Uffizi

Argento's 'The Stendhal Syndrome'

by Gary Morris

Every neurosis has a name, it seems, but "the Stendhal syndrome" was a new one for me. This one's based on an incident in which the famous French novelist was so overcome by the beauty of a painting that he went into sensory overload, fell unconscious, and in some sense "merged" with the art. Cult horror film director Dario Argento (*Suspiria*) based a grossly violent, probably misogynist, visually dazzling 1996 film on this idea. As with most of Argento's post-*Suspiria* work, it wasn't clear when or if *The Stendhal Syndrome* would be released, but happily Troma picked it up and is releasing the unrated director's cut. The glistening new print makes up for all those lousy dupes circulating in the fanboy underground market.

The story follows Anna Manni (played by Argento's daughter Asia Argento), a beautiful but slightly deranged detective, as she tracks down a serial rapist and murderer. The opening sequence shows her wandering mindlessly

floating through enormous throats.

Grossi brutality

Meanwhile, after a reverie triggered by Rembrandt's *Nightwatch*, the killer is standing in her room, where he brutally rapes her. The rapist is Alfredo Grossi (the gorgeous Thomas Kretschmann), about whom we learn nothing except that he's a violent psychotic. This is common enough in Italian horror films, which tend to work on the premise of the nightmare, in which motive and identity are obscure. The film is effective in maintaining this nightmarish tone — even with lousy English dubbing and sometimes silly special effects — and it works best as a study of a disintegrating personality, punctuated by gruesome sequences of rape, torture, and murder.

Fans of visual pyrotechnics will find much to love here, and more than a little to laugh at. Argento's command of the camera and lighting and editing gives the film a sleekness and visual panache that distinguish it immediately from its American counterparts. Important set-pieces like Anna's warehouse

Close-ups of bullets entering bodies, and giant pills floating through enormous throats.

through the streets of Florence, headed for the famous Uffizi Museum. Argento's images of Florence are compellingly dark — hordes of people moving indifferently through the streets, seemingly without purpose. Anna is an equally disturbing presence here, silent, looking vaguely terrified as she fights her way through the crowd. Her visit to the museum is occasioned, we learn, by an anonymous phone tip that the killer she's after will be there.

Once inside, she becomes overwhelmed by Botticelli, Caravaggio, and Brueghel, and falls unconscious, busting her lip in the process. This bloody event is just the first of a string of violent, bloody assaults that grow increasingly more gruesome. What is it about horror-meisters that makes them subject the women in their lives — think John Carpenter and his wife Adrienne Barbeau — to extensive cinematic brutality? Argento, who also wrote the screenplay, makes Anna so out of it she doesn't even know her name when asked; she's a kind of tabula rasa on which Daddy Dario can write his most violent sexual fantasies.

The film promises much with the idea of a person merging with a work of art. And considering his reputation as, supremely, a visual stylist, Argento could be expected to visualize all those elaborate tableaux from the Old Masters. Instead, when the paintings dissolve and Anna steps inside them, she's usually in the present, with her fellow policemen. Campy compensation is offered in bizarre microscopy close-ups of bullets entering bodies, or giant pills

encounter with Alfredo are laid out with the beautiful precision of a chessboard. On the other hand, it wouldn't be an Argento film if he didn't go sailing over the top. During one of her Stendhal reveries, Anna notices a graffiti'd demon with a huge hard-on stepping off the wall and coming toward her. (Even Argento apparently realized how ridiculous this was, because the scene is quickly truncated.) In another ludicrous scene, he has her plunge into water and French-kiss a big, ugly fish.

Less laughable are the lovingly detailed scenes of brutality. In one particularly grisly moment, Alfredo rapes a woman lying next to Anna, shoots a hole in her face, then peeks through the hole. Such scenes are hard to watch, and do little to counter notions that the classic Italian horror auteurs — from the great Mario Bava to Riccardo Freda to Argento — are deeply misogynist. Defenders would counter that such imagery is simply in the service of an exceptionally dark world-view, and might point for support to the fact that Anna also has numerous scenes where she violently takes control.

The most rewarding way to approach this powerful, uneven film may be as a study in psychological breakdown à la *Repulsion*, with the brutal details that could not be shown in a European art film of the 1960s now elaborately, painfully visualized in a more modern, darker era. ▼

The Stendhal Syndrome plays the Castro Theatre tonight, Thursday, May 13.

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Ring resonating

Wagner's enduring fable on CDs

by Timothy Pfaff

The *Ring* is soon on us again, and as in Wagner's fable, whoever gets the ring also gets its curse. Time — in the event, more than 16 hours of it — will tell. In its four forthcoming cycles of Wagner's four-opera *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, San Francisco Opera is up against the dilemma facing any opera company producing the *Ring* today: the near impossibility of casting it adequately. But give a *Ring* and people will come because, well, it's the *Ring*.

For the uninitiated, preparing for this enormous undertaking is a daunting prospect. But over the last year, record companies have released two mid-priced complete *Rings* on CD, one a remastering of a venerable, time-tested recording, the other a first-time release of *Ring* directly related to our home team's. Both are worth owning, or at least investigating,

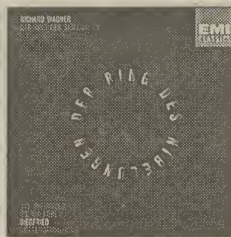
and either would be a handsome consolation prize for anyone unable to secure tickets to the Opera's — or even a good alternative to a production that looks less than promising on paper.

The place I go when I want to hear the *Ring* the way I want to hear it has long been the Herbert van Karajan cycle for DGG, a prize-laden studio recording drawn from Karajan's renowned productions of the individual *Ring* operas from the Salzburg Easter Festival with the Berlin Philharmonic and a cast of mostly European, and mostly exemplary, singers. The set has long divided listeners into those who consider it the tablets brought down from the mountain and those who find it unlistenable mannered and untheatrical. (At its appearance, Karajan's *Das Rheingold* was welcomed, derisively, as "chamber music Wagner.") DG's new remastering of the set in its "The Originals" series, in astonishingly clean, deep sound,

can only win it new converts.

To tell the truth, I had some problems of my own with that *Rheingold*, which seemed to me like a musical dandy in aspic, for years — but time away from it allowed me to return to it with a fresh sense of wonder. From that bourdon E-flat pedal that sets the whole cycle in motion — brooding, mysterious and more than a bit menacing from the Berliners — the long, four-scene prologue unfolds with an almost crushing inevitability. Even the most high-profile individual contributions — Gerhard Stolze's peerless ironic Loge, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau's only recorded Wotan — are subsumed masterfully into the sweeping whole.

I've had no such doubts about *Die Walküre*, which, if it were any better, would simply be unendurable. Jon Vickers' towering Siegmund, that last true hero of the *Ring*, would alone be worth the price of admission — his cries of "Wälse, Wälse" in Act I yield



one of the most shattering moments in Wagner singing on record, and his Todesverkündigung, ending Act II, is as rare an amalgam of nobility and world-weariness as you're likely ever to hear. It doesn't hurt that his foil in the scene is Régine Crespin as Brünnhilde. Even if, as alleged, undertaking this role cost her her career as a dramatic soprano, it was worth it (and the kind of sacrifice Wagner would have understood). No other Walküre Brünnhilde on record has so sagely negotiated the warrior-maiden's shift from insouciant girlishness to real god- (and father-) defying assumption of personal power. And that dad, in this case, is the Wotan of Thomas Stewart in peak voice and maximal psychological penetration spells majesty of the rarest sort.

Karajan's shimmering *Siegfried* and wrenching, cathartic *Götterdämmerung* seem more splendid than ever in DG's spiffed-up sound. The orchestra functions as a character of its own throughout the *Ring*, but it attains rare heights of expression from the third act of *Siegfried* on. Karajan's ability to clarify the score without depriving it of its power and immediacy was something of a miracle at the time and seems even more so now.

Drama preserved

EMI's mid-price *Ring*, featuring the forces of Munich's Bavarian State Opera under Wolfgang Sawallisch, is a live recording of a production previously released as videodisc set; the new set appears to be the sound-only portion. For a live recording, balances are surprisingly good, and Sawallisch's wonderful, gutsy conducting is captured with impressive clarity. The intermittent stage noise is not too high a price to pay for the feeling of a drama being played out in front of you — even when a scene as tender and erotic as Siegfried's awakening of Brünnhilde comes complete with crashes of what I assume is Hildegarde Behrens' armor being removed. In fact, I was in the Bavarian State Theater for portions of this *Ring* the autumn it was recorded, in 1989, and can attest to the accuracy of the recording — and sense of occasion — of this powerful production.

It's actually a relative of the San Francisco *Ring*. When it was new, and finished, in 1985, it made a sufficient splash internationally that the Bavarians approached its director, Nikolaus Lehnhoff, to preside over their new *Ring*. Although the Lehnhoff touch was apparent everywhere in Munich's step-sister *Ring*, the production could hardly have been more different from ours. *Das Rheingold*, as but one example, was set on the wing of an airplane. I never did get what that meant, but neither was there any mistaking its visual power. Its cast included a number of the day's leading Wagnerians, some of whom — notably Behrens as Brünnhilde, Robert Hale as Wotan, and the magisterial Marjana Lipovsek as Fricka — have since brought their interpretations to San Francisco.

The advantages of a live cycle are obvious: you get the same singers for the characters who go from opera to opera — for good and ill. It's a pity Behrens was in less than prime vocal shape by the time this Brünnhilde was taped (the Elektra she sang in Munich the previous week was a shriek, if not a scream), but she's dramatically acute as ever. And Rene Kollo, who sang Siegfried here, repeats the assignment in Munich in ringing form.

For anyone interested in sublime Wagner, the Karajan is clearly the way to go. This is elevated stuff, with an eye (and ear) to musical perfection. But for a human — sometimes all-too-human — *Ring*, the Münchners have much to offer. Theirs is a cycle one can relate to directly out of human experience, heroic, tragic, ecstatic and at times ineffably sad. It sticks to the emotional ribs. Would that we hear anything like it when the curtain goes up at the War Memorial in June. ▼

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Brief Summary

WARNING: SEVERE AND LIFE-THREATENING SKIN REACTIONS (STEVENS-JOHNSON SYNDROME, TOXIC EPIDERMAL NECROLYSIS), INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE OCCURRED IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH VIRAMUNE®. (See WARNINGS.) SEVERE AND LIFE-THREATENING HEPATOTOXICITY, INCLUDING FATAL HEPATIC NECROSIS, HAS OCCURRED IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH VIRAMUNE®. (See WARNINGS.) RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNIFORMLY WHEN VIRAMUNE® IS ADMINISTERED AS MONOTHERAPY. THEREFORE, VIRAMUNE® SHOULD ALWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINATION WITH ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENTS.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: VIRAMUNE® (nevirapine) is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-1 infection. This indication is based on analyses of changes in surrogate endpoints. At present, there are no results from controlled clinical trials evaluating the effect of VIRAMUNE® in combination with other antiretroviral agents on the clinical progression of HIV-1 infection, such as the incidence of opportunistic infections or survival. Resistant virus emerges rapidly and uniformly when VIRAMUNE® is administered as monotherapy. Therefore, VIRAMUNE® should always be administered in combination with at least one additional antiretroviral agent.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE® is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components contained in the tablet or the oral suspension.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE®, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis. Fatal cases of toxic epidermal necrolysis have been reported. VIRAMUNE® must be discontinued in patients developing a severe skin rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise. (See PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients.) Severe liver toxicity has been reported in patients receiving a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day (4 mg/kg/day in pediatric patients), which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. If rash is observed during this lead-in period, dose escalation should not occur until the rash has resolved. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

Severe or life-threatening hepatotoxicity, including total fulminant hepatitis (transaminase elevations, with or without hyperbilirubinemia, prolonged partial thromboplastin time, or encephalopathy), has occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE®. Some of these cases began in the first few weeks of therapy and some were accompanied by rash. VIRAMUNE® administration should be discontinued in patients with severe ALT or AST elevations. (See PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients.) VIRAMUNE® should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE® should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities return to baseline values. Monitoring of ALT and AST is strongly recommended, especially during the first six months of VIRAMUNE® treatment. (See PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients; ADVERSE REACTIONS; DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

PRECAUTIONS: General: Nevirapine is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidneys. However, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE® should be used with caution in these patient populations. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Patients receiving VIRAMUNE® or any other antiretroviral therapy may continue to develop opportunistic infections and other complications of HIV infection, and therefore should remain under close clinical observation by physicians experienced in the treatment of patients with associated HIV diseases.

When administering VIRAMUNE® as part of an antiretroviral regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

Drug Interactions: The induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY.) Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE®, dose adjustments may be necessary.

Ritavirine/Ribavirin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and ritavirine or ribavirin are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Ketoconazole: VIRAMUNE® and ketoconazole should not be administered concomitantly. Coadministration of nevirapine and ketoconazole resulted in a significant reduction in ketoconazole plasma concentrations. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Drug Interactions.)

Oral Contraceptives: There are no clinical data on the effects of nevirapine on the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives. Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (also other hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE®.

Information for Patients: Patients should be instructed that the major toxicity of VIRAMUNE® is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE® occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Patients should be instructed that if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in period, the VIRAMUNE® dose should not be escalated until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise should immediately discontinue medication and consult a physician. Patients should be instructed that abnormal liver function tests and cases of clinical hepatitis, including total fulminant hepatitis, have been reported with VIRAMUNE®. Liver function tests should be monitored, especially during the first six months of therapy. VIRAMUNE® administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities, until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE® should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur upon readministration. Patients should be instructed to consult their physicians immediately should symptoms of hepatitis occur.

Oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE®. (See PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions.)

Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE® therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. The long-term effects of VIRAMUNE® are unknown at this time. VIRAMUNE® is not a cure for HIV-1 infection; patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE® has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses; patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE®.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE® every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose. Patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Contraception, Menopausal, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation (Ames, Salmonella strains and *E. coli*), mammalian cell gene mutation assays (CHO/HGPRT), cytogenetic assays using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicity studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses providing systemic exposure based on AUC, approximately equivalent to that provided with the recommended clinical dose of VIRAMUNE®.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C: No observable teratogenicity was detected in reproductive studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits. In rats, a significant decrease in fetal body weight occurred at doses providing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher, based on AUC, than that seen at the recommended human clinical dose.

The maternal and developmental/no-observable-effect level dosages in rats and rabbits produced systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended daily human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE® should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Preliminary results from an ongoing pharmacokinetic study (ACTG 250) of 10 HIV-1-infected pregnant women who were administered a single oral dose of 150 or 200 mg VIRAMUNE® at a median of 5.5 hours before delivery, indicate that nevirapine readily crosses the placenta and is found in breast milk. Consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV, mothers should discontinue nursing if they are receiving VIRAMUNE®.

Pediatric Use: Safety was assessed in Trial BI 882 in which patients were followed for a mean duration of 33.9 months (range 6.6 months to 5.3 years), including long-term follow-up in 29 of these patients in Trial BI 892. The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE® in pediatric patients were similar to those observed in adults, with the exception of granulocytopenia which was more commonly observed in children. Serious adverse events were assessed in ACTG 245, a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of VIRAMUNE® (n = 305) in which pediatric patients received combination treatment with VIRAMUNE®. In this trial two patients were reported to experience Stevens-Johnson syndrome or Stevens-Johnson-like syndrome, including one case of anaphylaxis, were also reported. The evaluation of the antiviral activity of VIRAMUNE® in pediatric patients is ongoing.

Table 1 summarizes the marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in pediatric patients in Trial BI 882 and in follow-up Trial BI 892.

Table 1: Number of Pediatric Patients (%) with Marked Laboratory Abnormalities in Trials BI 882 and BI 892 Combined.

	No. (%) of Patients n=37
Hematology	
Decreased Hgb (<8.0 g/dL)	7 (19)
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	4 (11)
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	14 (38)
Increased MCV (>100 fL)	13 (35)
Blood Chemistry	
Increased ALT (>50 U/L)	4 (11)
Increased AST (>50 U/L)	5 (14)
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	4 (11)
Increased total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	3 (8)
Increased alkaline phosphatase (>2x ULN)	19 (51)
Increased amylase (>2x ULN)	6 (16)

ADVERSE REACTIONS: Adults: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE® therapy were rash, fever, nausea, headache, and abnormal liver function tests.

The major clinical toxicity of VIRAMUNE® is rash, with VIRAMUNE®-attributable rash occurring in 17% of patients in combination regimens in Phase III controlled studies. Thirty-seven percent of patients treated with VIRAMUNE® experienced rash compared with 20% of patients treated in control groups of other ZDV+ddI or ZDV alone (Table 2). Severe or life-threatening rash occurred in 7.6% of VIRAMUNE®-treated patients compared with 1.2% of patients treated in the control groups.

Rashes are usually mild to moderate, maculopapular/erythematous cutaneous eruptions, with or without pruritus, located on the trunk, face and extremities. The majority of severe rashes occurred within the first 28 days of treatment; 25% of the patients with severe rashes required hospitalization, and one patient required surgical intervention. All patients recovered. Overall, 7% of patients discontinued VIRAMUNE® due to rash.

Table 2: Percentage of Patients with Rashes in Adult Controlled Trials*

	ACTG 241 ^b	BI 1037	BI 1011	COMBINED DATA
	NVP+ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV	NVP+ZDV	NVP
n	197	201	30	25
Rash events of all Grades and all causality	39.6%	23.9%	26.7%	6.7%
Grade 3 or 4 rash events; all causality	8.1%	1.5%	3.3%	0%

* At recommended dose of one 200 mg tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one 200 mg tablet twice daily.
^b Trial ACTG 241 was designed to report Grade 3/4 (severe or life-threatening) events, except for several pre-specified events including rash for which all grades are reported.

Table 3 lists treatment-related clinical adverse events that occurred in patients receiving VIRAMUNE® in ACTG 241 and in Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011.

	ACTG 241	BI 1037 and BI 1011
	Grade 3/4 events	All severities
	NVP+ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV
Number of patients	197	201
Overall incidence of related adverse events	31%	23%
Rash	3	2
Fever	3	3
Nausea	5	4
Headache	3	3
Diarrhea	2	2
Abdominal pain	1	2
Ulcero-stomatitis	0	4
Peripheral neuropathy	0	2
Parosmia	1	0
Myalgia	1	7
Hepatitis	1	0

Table 4 summarizes marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in three controlled studies.

Table 4: Percentage of Adult Patients with Marked Laboratory Abnormalities

	ACTG 241	BI 1037 and BI 1011
	n=252	n=255
Hematology		
Decreased Hgb (<8.0 g/dL)	1.2%	2.0%
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	0.8	0.8
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	11.1	10.2
Blood Chemistry		
Increased ALT (>50 U/L)	3.4	3.5
Increased AST (>50 U/L)	2.0	2.4
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	2.4	1.2
Increased total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	0.4	1.2

Asymptomatic elevations in GGT levels are more frequent in VIRAMUNE® recipients than in controls. Because clinical hepatitis has been reported in VIRAMUNE®-treated patients, monitoring of ALT (SGPT) and AST (SGOT) is strongly recommended, especially during the first six months of VIRAMUNE® treatment. (See WARNINGS.)

Pediatric Patients: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE® in pediatric patients were similar to those observed in adults, with the exception of granulocytopenia which was more commonly observed in children. (See PRECAUTIONS, Pediatric Use.) The safety profile of VIRAMUNE® in neonates has not been established.

OVERDOSAGE: There is no known antidote for VIRAMUNE® overdose. Cases of VIRAMUNE® overdose at doses ranging from 800 to 1800 mg per day for up to 15 days have been reported. Patients have experienced events including edema, erythema nodosum, fatigue, fever, headache, insomnia, nausea, pulmonary infiltrates, rash, vertigo, vomiting and weight decrease. All events subsided following discontinuation of VIRAMUNE®.

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DANCE

Limitless possibilities

Disabled dancers in AXIS Dance Company

by Aimée Ts'ao

Sometimes I say, 'God, we're disabled — what are we doing on a stage? What are we thinking?' Yes, it is inspiring to see people with disabilities performing, but we don't want to be seen as just that. We want our art to speak for itself," emphasized Judith Smith, co-director of AXIS Dance Company. "Our work often gets pegged as being 'special,' but we want to create artwork that stands by itself in the greater community of artists."

AXIS evolved in 1987 out of a dance class for disabled women taught by Thais Mazur, who became co-director with Smith. The group decided to develop a piece based on writing that they had done for the class and premiered it in 1988 at the Furious Feet Festival.

"Then Krissy Keefer invited us to be in the Dance Brigade's *Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie*," Smith said, "and Terry Sendgraff wanted us in a piece of hers, and we kept getting offers. It was never our intention to become a dance company, but somehow it snowballed into one, and pretty soon we were getting our nonprofit status and putting together repertoire. It came at a point in my life where I was looking for something to put my energy, spirit, heart and soul into. After becoming disabled at 17, I spent ten years not doing much movement. When I moved to Berkeley, I started doing some improvisation with a friend, which led to swimming and working out, and finally martial arts. There I met people who got me involved in the dance class. I became interested in finding ways to move that weren't functional or pedestrian. Dance was really the last thing I ever expected to do."

Early on, AXIS developed a close bond with Jeremy Alliger of Dance Umbrella, who in 1992 invited the company to perform their first out-of-state engagement at the Aerial Dance Festival in Boston. The eight member Oakland-based company, which has both disabled and able-bodied dancers, has subsequently toured throughout the United States and internationally, in addition to teaching classes, offering workshops and performing locally.

Asking around

Two years ago, after Nicole Richter replaced Mazur as co-director, AXIS finally began to fulfill its dream of commissioning works from choreographers whose work they had admired. Smith said, "Some of us felt we had already developed our own vocabulary as a result of working

collaboratively, but we wanted more and knew that we needed to seek strong directors who would take us places we would not have gone on our own."

Currently, AXIS is one of the companies participating in the Phyllis Wattis Artists-in-Residence program at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and has begun commissioning new work from choreographers such as Joe Goode, Joanna Haigood of ZACHO Dance Theater, and Sonya Delwaide of the Compagnie de Danse L'Astragale, based in Québec.

"With Sonya, all the movement is hers. It was a nice change to put ourselves completely in someone else's hands. Joe [Goode] combines movement from both himself and the dancers. We have always had trouble staying with a theme, but now with both Joe and Joanna, we have someone on the outside to shape the work dramatically."

Having seen AXIS perform their own collaborative piece *Ta Kala* and Delwaide's *Chuchotements*, and now watching a rehearsal of Haigood's *Descending Cords*, I am astounded by both the dancers and the choreography. Haigood has introduced props, and she is extremely knowledgeable about the techniques the dancers need to be taught to master them. Judith and Bonnie are perched on drafting chairs, three and a half feet in the air. For the first time in their performing careers, they are not in wheelchairs, a simple change which lets them concentrate on the movement quality and meaning instead of dealing with steering issues. Uli rolls across the floor to a ladder suspended from the ceiling, then pulls himself up with his powerful arms, rung by rung, until he is ten feet off the floor. Nicole hangs on the lower rungs and pushes off with her feet, setting the ladder circling around an invisible center. They both create various shapes hanging from it as the centrifugal force gently pulls at them.

In the same way that props can be limiting, so are the dancers' disabilities. But that does not need to be a negative element; in the hands of a true artist, the given material matters far less than the imagination to creatively explore all the possibilities of using it.

AXIS Dance Company will be presenting excerpts from *Ta Kala* and *Descending Cords* this Sunday, May 16 at 5 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum as a preview, before taking Haigood's piece to Boston for the International Festival of Aerial Dance in June. It's a benefit for the company's New Works Fund. Don't miss this opportunity to see a unique company of disabled and able-bodied dancers, who will

change your perception of what the human body and spirit are capable of doing. ▼

For tickets (\$9 general/\$7 students, senior, disabled) to the preview, call 978-2787; to make reservations to the Gala Dessert and Champagne Reception (\$25) following the performance, call AXIS Dance Company at (510) 287-5792.



Members of the AXIS Dance Company

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SF Ballet

◀ page 47

injury to his neck in 1996. He never got a farewell, but thanks to excellent orthopedic care, he was able to do those stressful shoulder lifts in the Balanchine.

They danced so elegantly and sensually together, obviously alive to the implications of the whole evening. His blinding smiles at his partner every time they did something special (which in Bal-

anchine is practically every moment) and the thunderous applause that greeted them afterward had me puddling up.

The house was obviously filled with friends and knowledgeable balletomanes, because the ovation was not only lengthy and standing, but deep with appreciative yelps of pleasure. Work on your tan, Sabina; SFB and its fans are going to miss your dramatic maturity, physical beauty and, of course, those magnificent thighs. ▼

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The banner yet waves



Silvio Barretta won the Mr. November 2000 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, May 6 at the Powerhouse. Mr. December will be chosen on Thursday, May 20.

by Mister Marcus

A part from all the hot men who will be onstage at the IML contest in Chicago on May 30, one of the most potent presences in the limelight will be purely symbolic, not made of flesh and blood.

That Sunday evening at the Congress Theater, highlighted by the pairing of Frank Nowicki and our own Queen Cougar as the emcees, as well as by the presence of celebrity judges, part of the evening's agenda will be devoted to a special ceremony commemorating the tenth anniversary of the creation and presentation of the Leather Pride Flag.

I remember vividly the first time I saw the flag, and how it took me by surprise. I thought I was in the loop for all things asso-

ciated with the IML show, but that one somehow got away from me.

It happened at the stepping-aside ceremony of "Iron" Mike Pereyra as IML at 1988, after a host of aspirants vying for the title were swooped passed by Guy Baldwin of Los Angeles.

Somewhere in the middle of the ceremonies, the then-publisher of *Drummer Magazine* came on stage bearing a black, blue, and white-striped piece of cloth emblazoned with a red heart on the upper-left quadrant. As the new flag was presented to the audience, it was greeted with much applause. It was to become a powerful symbol for the leather/SM community.

Not everyone accepted it at first. It had detractors.

"What audacity!" some said, not impressed with the flag.

The criticism then reminds me of what the creators of the Leather Anthem are going through these days.

But the leather/SM communities of the world quickly adopted the banner, and today you can find leather flags big and small emblazoned everywhere, including on stickers, note cards, key chains, and cigarette lighters. It even comes as a gold or silver ring with onyx, lapis, mother-of-pearl and a genuine heart-shaped ruby in the upper-left quadrant.

The flag's acceptance is now complete. In the past few years, I have not heard even a single word of derision, as the banner has become the symbol of the leather nation and all its tribes around the world.

Of course, with so much diversity in the leather community world-wide, there are other versions of the flag. The Australian leather flag has the five white stars on it representing the five Australian states. The Canadian version has a red maple leaf in the lower right quadrant. And so on. Some versions have gained wide recognition, while others remain relatively obscure.

So yes, the flag will be much in evidence in Chicago as the leather tribe salutes its anniversary. Tony DeBlase will be at IML, not only to be recognized and lauded for

next page ►



The Mr. Dixie Bell Bar winners are (from left) Terry Brown (1st runner up), Michael Cook (1st place), and Jarred Doak (2nd runner up). The event took place at the leather bastion of the Midwest in KC, MO.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Sunday, May 16

Constantines MC beer party at the Eagle, 1500-1800, food and cruising. Only \$8 each, proceeds to benefit Coming Home Hospice.

Wednesday, May 19

Leathermen's Discussion Group, 1930 at Club Eros. Subject: "Bathhouses in SF, Past, Present, Future". It's free. Call 551-0871.

Thursday, May 20

Final spot on the Millennium Bare Chest Calendar. Mr. December is up for grabs tonight at 2130. New judges. \$100 cash prize. Fame! Painless volunteerism. Get up there and show it off.

Weekend May 21 — 23

First regional Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer contest tonight at the Dallas Eagle, at 2100. Winner competes here in September. More coming.

Queer Bikers Spring Kickoff Ride through May 27th. Click on their website at www.well.com/user/mcsycle/qbidv99.htm

Friday, May 21

Exiles of SF meeting at the Women's Bldg. Doors open at 1930; program goes through 2230. Sub-

ject: Training Masters & Slaves by "Scooter."

Happy Birthday to Wolf Sterling, celebrating his 30th at home tonight with some choice guests/friends.

Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace opens all over the place.

Saturday, May 22

The San Franciscans MC celebrate their 29th anniversary at the Eagle tonight, 2000-2300, by invites or club overlay only. Congrats!

The 15 Association's monthly gathering, celebrating Armed Forces Day at the usual (secret!) location. BYOB. Guests must arrive with you.

Happy Birthday to Andre English, who turns 40 today with a gathering of friends and supporters. Many more dude!

Sunday, May 23

InterClub Fund's beer party at the Eagle, 1500-1800, only \$8, with food. No other info at my deadline.

Weekend May 27 — June 1

IML weekend in Chicago. Thousands of leather folk will be there to witness the selection of IML '99. Will you be there?

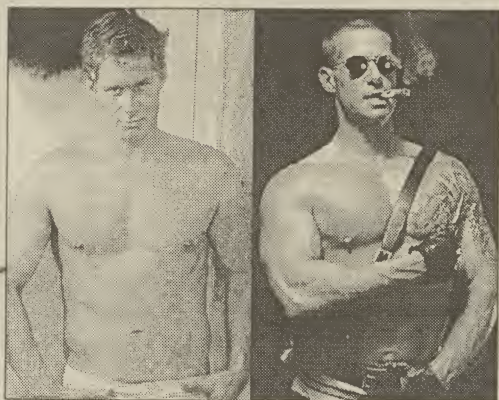
Hard research

by John F. Karr

A porneur's world can be a lonely one, locked away with a VCR, or poring in academic rigor through dusty tomes of forgotten arcana. But it was in one such ancient publication that I stumbled, on a night so late and dreary, across a long-forgotten scrap of information that brought to this scholar's life sudden illumination, joy, and justification.

Fortunately, the May 1981 issue of *Blueboy* magazine was not too esoteric a journal for me, for there he was, plain for all the world to see, hardly hidden at all — if one only looked. He was staring out from the back row in a group photograph of the contestants in *Blueboy's* Third Annual Man of the Year Contest. The photograph was a feast of the way we were at the tail end of the clone era: mustaches, full heads of unruly hair. It was his half-cocked, Harrison Ford-like smile that hooked me. Wasn't that someone I knew? Of course! It was Rick Karp.

Not exactly a name on the tip of everyone's tongue, although the gentleman who bears it has been upon many a recent tongue. And though it's not the name we know him by now, there was no doubt in my mind after seeing the two full-page glamour photos subsequently devoted to Mr. Karp — who, incidentally, was representing the Back Street Bar of Provincetown, Massachusetts in the contest — that he was none other than current superpornstar Cole Tucker. It's him, alright, down to the placement of moles on his hairless body. The only difference, other than the 18 years between photos, is the curly thicket of glistening strawberry



Before and after: 'Rick Karp,' left, and Cole Tucker.

blond curls on his now famously shaved head.

The photos are a fascinating glimpse into the former life of the star, who has ridden out recent scandal — his HIV status revealed, as well as his affair with Tom Spencer, a conservative member of the European Parliament. And now, his roots. Tucker, whose current age has been quoted as somewhere between 45 and 47, was approximately 25 when he entered the *Blueboy* contest, and although he's been a businessman for some years, he was a bartender then. No shame in that, and no shame in his not winning the title those many years ago. He's certainly taking honors these days — and looking as fine, or finer, than he did so long ago. Although I for one miss his sweetly gleaming curls.

On other research fronts, I followed my own lead and wrote away for the *Super Collector's Edition X-Rated Gay Erotic Video Guide and Source Book*, which I

mentioned in my review of the Bijou CD-ROM Catalogue. Although the ad graphics and title were dubious to me, it promised 2,300 reviews, 1,000 photographs, and 98 performer profiles in its 575 pages. It somewhat disappointingly turns out to be the first three of the annual Adam Film World gay video directories, for 1991, 1992, and 1993. I already had them, but if you don't, and want them, here's your chance. They're bound together in one slightly unwieldy volume, and only the 1993 is full-color. You know the format — the reviews are brief capsules, yet are dependable in their bias, and the photos are hard-on. These first issues index only films reviewed, skipping the later inclusions of performer and content index. Although the cover price says \$19.95, the mail order ad I originally saw quoted \$14.95 plus postage. Write to Knight Publishing, 8060 Melrose Avenue, LA, CA, 90046. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

giving the flag impetus, but to serve as a judge for the IML contest itself. I hope many of you will be there to witness this important milestone. IML 1999 is going to be another one of those great events! Make sure you arrange your tickets and your hotel now, and brace yourself for the world's biggest leather competition.

In other 'hoods

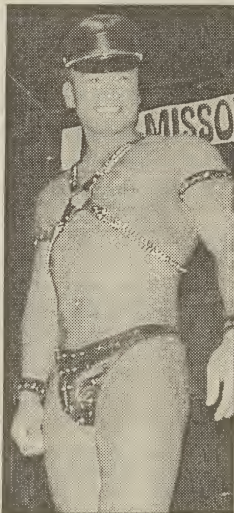
Last Thursday, May 6, the Bears of San Francisco hosted a little soiree at the Ramada hotel, and forthwith dispensed \$27,000 in checks to the beneficiaries of International Bear Rendezvous held here last February.

It was another proud moment for the BOSE, who toil just as hard as other groups to insure that the rest of the community benefits from their labors.

So, the Gay & Lesbian Historical Society of No. California, the HIV in Prison Committee, and the Gay & Lesbian Hot Line are each \$9,000 richer.

To date, believe it or not, BOSE has raised and donated more than \$100,000 in charity. Bravo Bears! Are the nominators for the Pantheon of Leather Awards reading this?

Later that same evening (May 6), another packed house at the Powerhouse saw seven more men compete for the Mr. November 2000 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar. Judges Andy Rose, Mike



Jarred Doak went on to win the Mr. Missouri Leather title in St. Louis on Saturday, April 24, and will compete at IML in Chicago.

Salinas, Marcus Wonacott and Bauke Ylstra ran through the questioning, and when it was over, the startlingly handsome Silvio Barretta took the top spot, with Mike Lion the runner-up.

The final calendar spot, for Mr. December 2000, will be filled next Thursday, May 20th at 2130 hours. The thrilling conclusion that night will be followed by the Cover Man Contest taking place

at the same venue on June third. Don't miss either event!

In far off Washington, D.C., another contest, centered on the bears in our midst, took place at the DC-Eagle, with the Mr. DC Eagle and DC Eagle Cub competitions.

The winners will compete here next February for the International Mr. Bear competition.

Knowledgeable observers of the genre were unanimous in pointing out that this was the "hunkiest" set of bears ever seen at a contest of this type. When it was all over, Jim Palmer of Washington, D.C. won the Mr. DC Bear '99 title. Mr. Palmer dazzled the judges with his baton twirling fantasy that allegedly wrecked the crowd! Tom Santomartino from somewhere in Delaware won the DC Bear Cub '99 spot. As a seasoned observer told me, "It was one of those 'you had to be there' moments." Sounds great. Photos are on the way.

Note to publicists

Be advised that if you are going to send me a press release about any event you are having, if it is not complete with all the facts, I simply will not print it or try to contact you for details you may have left out. I am deluged with press releases, most of them accurate and intelligent, fortunately, but that is not always true. So, please, do take the time to check the details and make sure everything is included. If need be, you can reach me by e-mail: HatchetQ@aol.com. Use it. ▼

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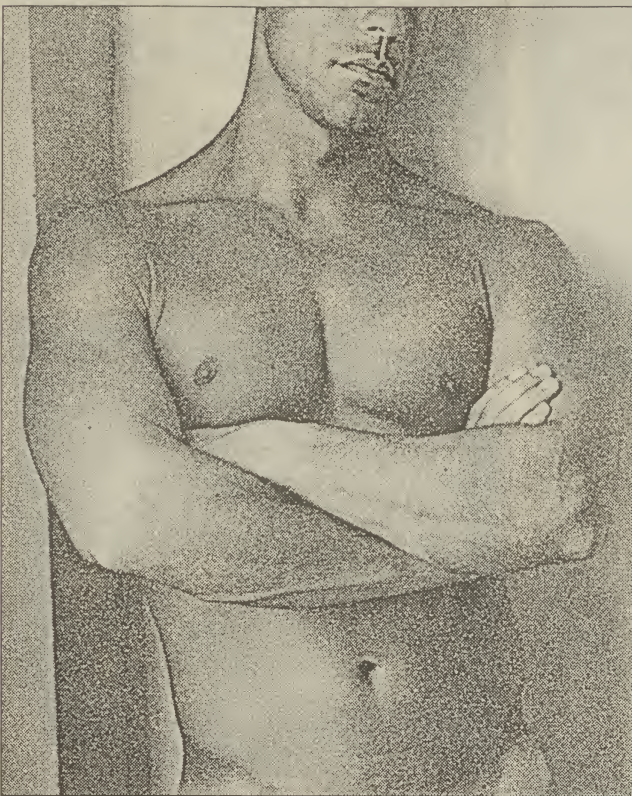
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PARTING GLANCES

Walking Up 17th St. 7:40AM
Monday 4/19. You: black jeans, greyish jacket, great moustache, tall, walking up hill. Me: backing up jeep. You crossed in front of me, our eyes met. Hope to hear from you. ☎ 7300

Lake Merritt Bart 4/12 6:40
You: short brown hair, cute. Coming up stairs with bike. Me: blonde, bearded with friend, descending. You blew me a kiss over the rail. Call me. Let's talk. ☎ 7301

Pepsi One @ Bell Mkt 4/16 2pm
You: handsome, glasses, blue shirt, tie. Me: lt. brn hair, shorts, yellow rugby shirt. I asked about your pepsi one; got strong feeling more discussion definitely necessary. ☎ 7302

Home Depot Emeryville May 1st
Hey Jim. The two Johns here - We stopped and talked about in the Oakland Hills and us in the city - would like to touch base with you. ☎ 7500

Fri Night Diamond St.
You parked, we talked, we played a little. You did not want to go to my place because your b/f was out of town. I would like to see you again. ☎ 7304

Me Bright Orange Sweat Shirt
U, white tee, big blue eyes and goatee eating sandwich with friend at Baghdad Cafe, Sat. May 1st. We had lots of eye contact couldn't connect, was with mom. Call me, let's meet, talk, play. ☎ 7502

33 Bus Sat 5-1 3:30PM
You: bald, moustache, goatee and white pants, very attractive. Me: dark hair moustache, sleeveless vest. Smiled at each other. Not enough time to talk... How about dinner? ☎ 7501

Hath/ 5/2 At 3:30 Balcony
You: Longhaired blonde, Me: Long-haired brunette. Enjoyed our conversation. Regret not following you after parking glance. Perhaps future movie partner or more? Attracted. Call ☎ 7503

Tony M. - The Crunch Gym
You came to the gym only once. Worked your cute little buns off. Drop the big mac and come back. Love, Joan. ☎ 7507

Bus Stop 18th And Castro 4/28
U-20 something, backpack, headphones; Me- 40ish, bl. leather jacket, sunglasses. We cruised; you got off at Davies stop. Want you madly! ☎ 7508

Steamworks April 5
You- East Bay originally from Spain. Me- older, grey hair S.F. You came into my room, much fun, great kisser. Want more. Have car will travel. Call ☎ 7504

Latin Guy Eating Lunch On 24st
You: Latin guy, outside with green shirt & jeans on. You were with your dog. Me: tall, black jacket, jeans and black & yellow hat. Call me. ☎ 7509

We Met At Mack
Hoped to meet again-but its closed. You pounded my hungry hole- you 30's, med build, rock hard tool- me same. W/m, flexible, eager to please. Call lets do it in private. ☎ 7505

Castro Muni-Sat 4/24- Cute Beard
Me: getting on; you: off. Me: brown/blue, moustache, with friend; you: brown/beard, shorts/tank top, cute. You got off, smiled, hugged friend, waved as train pulled away. Call! ☎ 7400

5/3- Washington Mutual@Taraval
You: Dark hair, carhart pants, jeep. Me: short hair, glasses, beard. We talked outside. I was too shy to ask you out. Coffee? Dinner? Pis. Call. ☎ 7506

Castro Tarts Sun 4/18
Our eyes met several times; me with friend from out of town, you alone reading Sunday paper. You have beautiful eyes! Short scilian wants to get to know you. ☎ 7303

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Tall Dark Handsome Loving Hunk
Passionate GWM LTR. Accomplished 6'2", 190#, 43, buffed goatee Italian. Fun, exclusive, sincere, HIV+ nonprogressor. Seeks similar 35-45, GWM, professional, relationship oriented for soulmate. Relationship. ☎ 7305

Sexy & Masc. Scorpio Next Door
Not cut out for mateless lifestyle in S.F. Pursuing a true-blue guy with a self assured but devil-may-care attitude towards others' expectations. Me: vigorous and intense 28yo, 5'8", 165lbs, br/HIV, terrific smile. You: well-balanced caucasian with similar attributes. Us: A complimentary combination! ☎ 7306

Clark Kent Adman From N.Y.
Assertive, affectionate, creative, articulate, warm, witty, young-looking GWM soulmate/sevmate, 40, 6'1", 178#, br/gr, HIV-. Let's fly together & kiss in high places. ☎ 7307

Wanted Dominant Guy
Quiet, nice guy submissive seeks dominant around 5'7", 150, in-shape, HIV-, 40-50, verbal sometimes, experienced. I'm in-shape, 45, attractive, interests sense of humor, possible LTR. ☎ 7308

Seeking No Partnership
Rope bondage master ISO serious masochist, who enjoy clothpin, flogging et al for exploration, humiliation, pain & pleasure. You be in-shape & serious. I'm 5'9", 185lb. Warm & experienced. Relationship oriented. ☎ 7309

Educated African American
Young & cute 28, 5'6", 170 ISO friendship/ ltr with interest in cooking intelligent HIV- single guys 23-35. I enjoy dancing, cooking, hiking, the beach & being romantic, serious reply only!! ☎ 7310

Free Massage For Athletes
Great massage given by a very handsome, husky middle aged semi-retired male. ☎ 7311

Affectionate HIV+
Asian, 5'7", 130, nice face and personality, toned body, likes movies, theaters, music, reading, cuddling, kissing, seeking 30/40ish GM, self confident, h/w proportioned non feminine for ltr. ☎ 7312

I'm Ready! Are You?
Cute GWM, slender, mid 30's, bottom, christian, airlines employee, just moved to Bay Area, seeking spirited, fun top for fun, flights, romance and ltr. Let's play! ☎ 7313

Brazilian Hot Passion
Hot versatile South American 150#, 5'10", brn/grn, smooth body, gym toned, uncut, super sensuous, luscious kisser, HIV+ super healthy/athletic. ISO fun guys to connect. ☎ 7519

Chubby Guy Bk And Young
Seeks nice-guy-big, small. It's all good. Me: 26, 5'11" about 325#, honey brown skin, masculine and romantic. You: 18-39, cute and affectionate. Friendship or sex is cool too, I'm open. ☎ 7517

A Tender Embrace
Is initially offered by this 65 y/o. GWM, 155lbs. 5'11" brown/hazel. Then, soft lips touch as we explore, taking our time with a drink and cigarette in Hayward. ☎ 7314

Grandpa Searches For Grandson
Not found the right one-any race- especially if had a tough life- and needs love and care and help to a future can relocate. ☎ 7406

Asian Mde ISO White Mde
GAM, 38, 145lbs, 5'7", drk hair/eyes, smooth good built/fit. Likes outdoors/ beach/ theatre ISO WM 27-38, smooth, good built for friends & more. ☎ 7315

Seeking Friendship
My partner and all my friends have all passed on. I seek a friendship. I am 5'8" ISO regular guy. I enjoy everything except ballet. ☎ 7316

To The Handsome French/ Canadian
Met on 3/23 & I luv U. Happy B-day! ☎ 7401

ISO Hairy Sexy Romantic Bottom
Into outdoors, friends, travel, monogamy. LTR b/bl 230 6'4". Up hip and cool. No bs'er or freaks. ☎ 7402

Aggressive Black Men
Do you like sex daily or weekly. Do you enjoy being sucked a long time. I will submit to you on a regular basis. I'm GWM, 165lbs. Your cocksucker. ☎ 7403

Healthy 62 Semi Retired WM
Would like to meet new friends. I'm 6'2" 200lbs. like long morning walks, quiet evenings, dining out, gardening and travel. Have a good sense of humor. Looking to meet other WM around my age for friendship or whatever. ☎ 7404

18-30 Muscles
Big swollen nipples, big round butt for aggressive strong love making. Safe sex, HIV-, clean hygiene and ready for some good strong nipple sucking. Blacks, Latinos, Asians only. ☎ 7407

Student Seeks Patron
Eccentric, focused student ISO a generous open minded man interested in helping w/ my education in exchange for companionship. Serious only please. ☎ 7409

Latino New In Santa Cruz Area
25, 5'6" 170, medium build complexion, black hair, goatee masculine, str8 acting, attractive, looking to meet guys 25-45 in the area 4 friendship & more, be honest & serious, mature. ☎ 7510

ISO Sincere Younger Partner
You desire a balanced, growth oriented relationship while being sexually top identified. I'm a fit, 5'0", GWM arts professional and we are HIV- nonsmokers/users, open minded emotionally available. ☎ 7511

At Last I'm Here To Serve You
You: Bi or GWM 18-55yo, HIV-, top, size does not matter, husky a plus & horny. Me: Filipino, 36yo, HIV-, 5'9", satisfaction guaranteed by me. ☎ 7512

Boysie, Smooth, VGL, GWM, 150
5'10", 38, bl/gr, HIV-, mostly bottom. ISO in-shape tops 30-45, any race. Muscular/ alt. rock & + open to possibilities for LTR to just (safe) fun. No sub. abuse, dishonesty or flakes, please. ☎ 7513

Mentor And Companion
GWM 57, handsome, uncut, 6'175 bl/br/HIV- shaved cock/balls. Seeks smooth, slim, attractive uncut guys 18-30 for LTR. Serious only. N/S. ☎ 7516

GBM Seeks GWM East Bay
GBM positive 46yo seeks GWM. 40-50yrs. I am 5'11" 190lbs. brn/brn attractive. Tired of bars- friendship. LTR-all possible. Be weight/height proportionate. ☎ 7518

Brazilian Hot Passion
Hot versatile South American 150#, 5'10", brn/grn, smooth body, gym toned, uncut, super sensuous, luscious kisser, HIV+ super healthy/athletic. ISO fun guys to connect. ☎ 7519

Chubby Guy Bk And Young
Seeks nice-guy-big, small. It's all good. Me: 26, 5'11" about 325#, honey brown skin, masculine and romantic. You: 18-39, cute and affectionate. Friendship or sex is cool too, I'm open. ☎ 7517

Consider This: GWM, 29, 6', 170#
Seeking like minded. Sports, love, music, sex, work, media, school, handsome, healthy, non-bat/fem. Interested? Won't waste your time. LTR. Just meet me. ☎ 7520

Nice Hard Dick 8" For You Enjoy
Horny Brazilian, 36, 5'7" 132lbs, masculine, clean cut, hair, eyes and brown. You're handsome GWM or Latino, between 18-34, hungry nice butt. My heart'll go on, I'll fill you with love. ☎ 7515

Namaste
We are here briefly. The spiritual is our true home. Physical passion a joy, heart and soul connection bliss. GWM 50, 6'0", 200lbs. Aware, honest, compassionate pls. call. Recovering men welcome. ☎ 7514

Attractive Latino
Good looking Latino 33yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee- professional looking for GWM between 26-40yo for friendship or more. I like: dining out, travel, hiking, just call me. ☎ 7521

GWM, 46, 5'8", Bl, Brn, Gdkgng, 160lb.
Noe Valley prof. 8" restoring, garden, music, travel, smkr, cat. ISO: uncut boyfriend? LTR? hairy a+, non s. ca a+, cook? ☎ 7405

Black Leo/Aries In SF?
Gay black sagittarius, 36, 190, 6 foot, goatee, handsome, fun seeks fire sign for friendship and ????? ☎ 7408

GWM Seeks Sweetheart
ISO a warm, caring, affectionate GWM, GWM, 34-44, HIV-, & who might enjoy bicycling, massage, dining out, & kissing & cuddling; Me: GWM, 40, 5'9", 175lbs. HIV-, auburn red/blue. ☎ 7522

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Hot, Horny, Hung?
Slim, trim, cut WM strip naked, kick back for great ball n cock suck. Hungry mouth gives compl. satisfaction. married, uniforms A+. ☎ 7317

Hot White Pig Bottoms Wanted
By 55 yr-old Caucasian 6' 155lbs brn/brn glasses hairy chest & stomach 9" cut cock wants to fuck young white guys under 40 who have tight butts. ☎ 7318

It's Time To Get Real
Me: Asian 35 5'9", will do everything you say any race, age, size. Me: just average but I will make your fantasy come true. No second thoughts. ☎ 7319

8" Cock Or Bigger
Mature slim short GWM HIV- with hot pussy, want to be fucked with big cock, & loves sucking cock slow. Plus knows how to use my butt muscles. Also like being spanked. No bay S.F. ☎ 7320

Wanted: Black Guys
I'm a good looking GWM, 42, 185lbs with dark short brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, and smooth body. I'm seeking black guys to give some oral service. Only 25-45 need respond. ☎ 7321

Like To Get Off Late At Night?
Hot hung inorniac gives amazing oral service to hung, smooth guys. Immediate callback if you tell me what I want to hear. No chit chat please. ☎ 7322

Vans, Suv's, Trailer-homes, Cars
W/darkened windows. Turn me on, like to get naked for sex with in confines. Seeking owners of above for daytime adventure. Aromahemp ok. Safe, HIV-. ☎ 7323

Black Top With Attitude Sought
By respectful white boy, slim, attractive, 38. Seeking slim to skinny, smooth, hung and verbal man. I'll worship you and serve you. Just snap your fingers, Sir. ☎ 7324

Just Shut- Up And Ride
WM, 34, 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk- 48" ch 32" w 18" arms- wants good looking men to pump or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off -anytime. ☎ 7325

Let's Suck Cock N Eat Ass
GWM, good looking, dark/brown, goatee, HIV+, 6'1/2 cut, seeks very oral 69er! u.b. under 40, and ready to suck cock and eat ass. Let's have a beer, watch porn and have fun. Day-time, hairy, uncut A+ +. ☎ 7327

Bad Attitude- Good Fuck
Big dick Italian top looking for a hot masculine, in-shape bottom. Any race. Also, don't mind "kicking-it" with other toppers. ☎ 7410

Al Oral Service- Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocity. HIV-. ☎ 7411

Palo Alto Filipino Cocksucker
40, 5'11", 185. Bk/brown. ISO 7" or more, cock to suck off. Penisula area preferred. 11pm-12noon no repro. No one over 50! ☎ 7418

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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Shy Longhair

Not into social scenes. GWM, 39, 5'10", 190, 6" top, HIV+avg looks, curly blonde/red & beard. Looking for bottoms, similar age, for indoor play, maybe ongoing. ☎ 7412

Straight Guy Wants Blow Jobs

I'm a part Latino straight man, HIV-, handsome, blue collar, 5'8", slim, 48yo. Into getting head from gay men. Will repeat if satisfaction mutual. Your place pls. ☎ 7414

In Your Lap

Sexy boy 31, slim build, seeks big brother to sit me in his lap, jack me off slowly, while looking into my eyes, make me squirt. You're in control. ☎ 7523

Kick Back And Talk Nasty

To your cocksucker- come over and watch me do what I do best. Looking for big cocks to worship. Pref. Black and Latino dick. Me- 5'8" 45, green eyes, heavy. ☎ 7415

Party In My Hole

Wisconsin butt boy visiting SF May 9-15. ISO one/group cock/ dildo/ fist to stuff & stretch hungry hole. I'm 38, 5'8", 170, goatee. You be 20's-40's good shape. Latino & hung thick a plus. ☎ 7416

Discipline For You

Spanking, light to heavy. Novices welcome. Limited respected, role play possible. Me: attractive GWM, 46, 6'5", 250, stocky build brown hair/ moustache. You: attractive GM/ White, Asian, Latin), slim, 18-35, nice buns. ☎ 7326

Insatiable Total Asialam Bottom

Youthful, 5'9", 160lbs clean shaven br/br HIV- It smoker. Non drinker, bottom. East Bay seeks tops 8" + all races. 47yo lks 30's love to suck and get fucked. East Bay tigh/shaven live in desires. ☎ 7417

Mutual Dildo Play In SF

Total bottom 35 buzzed & goatee 165lbs 5'7" looking for mutual butt play bottoms. I smoke, drink & party. I also suck & get fucked by hung tops. White or Latino, HIV+ only. ☎ 7419

Suck My Swollen Cock

Big, always-hard, juicy, cock waiting for a hot pussy throat. You be attractive, in-shape and hungry. Will reciprocate. ☎ 7420

Let's Explore One Another

Attractive GWM, 6', 175#, 37, athletic, HIV-, br/br, hairy, intelligent, romantic, humorous, masculine, clean, fun, very healthy. Seeks similar or younger for regular intimate encounters w/ LTR potential. ☎ 7421

Get Naked, Get Sucked!

Kick back on my massage table for hot bj 4 trim cut WM/big thick cocks n balls. Mult cummers A+ married ok. ☎ 7422

Insatiable Man- Pussy

38, 165, 5'8" Asian, smooth, tanned with very hot pussy. Looking for tops good at using toys, cock, fist. East Bay. ☎ 7413

Sleaze Black Bottom

Seeks raunch/kink/ sleaze top verbal a plus. ☎ 7423

Seeking Affectionate Husky Man

WLM early 40's, 6', 160lbs. ISO affectionate chubby/husky men who don't work out for deep kissing and sensual oral action. Rustic-looking A+ not into gay scene, drugs, smoking ok. ☎ 7424

Cocksucker On Call

Excellent cocksucker ready for big cocks that need draining on a reg. basis. Me: 5'8" 150 You: taller than me, hung and horny. ☎ 7524

East Bay White Bottom

Horny for a Black or Latin top to service. I'm 6', 155 br/bl HIV-. Like to suck, fuck & rim. U/C? Would like to dock. ☎ 7525

Like Get Fucked Like To Suck

GWM 52 170 5'11" n/s, n/d, like to suck and get fucked and play around. Age and race no factor also video. Please call. ☎ 7526

Hung Tops Wanted

Bi bottom guy who is eager to please. GWM, 45, 6', 155lb. no attitude, HIV+. ☎ 7527

You Have 10 Minutes...

To drain Oakland's blackest, juiciest, sweetest love gun. No beginners, beepers, beards/goatees (they scratch). All races and ages welcome. Experts only please. Thanks. ☎ 7528

Slender Or Small Men 18-35

Wanted by 54yo masseur who enjoys massaging lean or small men. Free prof, licensed one hour Swedish massage with oil or lotion. Haight/panhandle area. ☎ 7529

I Want An Asian Bottom

ISO Asian ass to rim & fuck- you will be pleased. GWM 35 good looks & knows how to use his cock. ☎ 7530

Cute Husky Bi Boy

Gd/kg bi WM 5'9", 180 br/br, 7" w/bp, beefy muscular legs + butt, cute face & long, hot tongue seeks gay/bi WM for long oral sessions. Mon/Thurs. days best. ☎ 7531

Blow Job For Hot Jocks

Oral service performed on your top by cute WM 30. U are 18-35, in good shape, uncut, white, cocky, masculine. No reciprocation. ☎ 7532

Foreigner- Bottom- Wanted

Bi healthy top man 53, 200, 5'9" sincere very clean looking for healthy HIV- bottom man for a good time, anytime. Oral ok. East Bay. ☎ 7533

Financial District

Healthy, congenial, in-shape mid-aged guy; ultra-discreet, slim, balding with dark beard; provides efficient, courteous oral service in your office after work. ☎ 7534

Jack Butt

40s, 6' 180# hunky East Bay white bottom seeks Black/Latino muscular top studs. I'm hungry and eager for long, hard pounding. Your buddies serviced too. ☎ 7535

I'll Blow Your Mind

And your big juicy cock. Lay back & enjoy the best from expert cocksucker. I'm in-shape, 57, 5'11", 170, hairy and always ready. You be trim, well-hung & under 45. ☎ 7536

Seeking Hungry Cocksucking Pig

In-shape, nice looking, muscular G.A.L.M. Looking for hungry cocksucking pig who likes to eat ass and into serious ass play. Must be fit, nice looking, 25-35 and loves to party. ☎ 7537

Cocksucker Takes It

Hot lips, tongue suks u.cut WM w/big thick cocks n balls kick back for complete satisfaction. ☎ 7538

Uncut, Mexican Or Latin Studs

21-45 wanted by tattooed white boy, 38, bottom 9" cut who likes to suck & lick foreskin. My place or yours? ☎ 7539

FETISHES**Wanted: Hot Young Barefeet**

You: 18/23, boyish, skinny & smooth, White, Latin, Asian with cute barefeet. Bi male 30's, discreet, will rub massage, tickle & orally service your barefeet, maybe more? ☎ 7538

Young Slave Wants To Be A Dog

26yo very handsome submissive boy from Europe is looking for complete dog training by a cute and very demanding master under 35. Master will be satisfied with the dog. ☎ 7539

Sweaty Jockstraps

My jockstrap gets kinda sweaty after work out... looking for another in-shape masc guy into stickin his nose and tongue up there while I beat off... ☎ 7530

Gertrude Stein Said It Best!

"A hose is a hose is a hose!" Whatever your dick size, your giant load after giant load after giant load, proves I'm Bay Area's best repeat BEST cocksucker! ☎ 7425

GWM B/D Btm/ Slave-Novice

38yo, 180lb, 5'11, ht/wt proportionate in Danville. ISO masculine top/master. S/B 35-50, 5'10+, 175+ ht/wt proportionate, verbal. Hairy chest+ Prefer E/B Area. ☎ 7435

Butt Eater

Expert rimmer-blo, GWM, 5'11", 155, 37, wants long, intense feeding- lick, suck, eat for right man. I have rim chair. Prefer hairy butt-hole. ☎ 7426

I'm A Nasty Top

Hairy-in shape 40's sweaty butt and pits into role playing cocks, incest, underwear. Looking for in shape bottoms in a suit + ☎ 7427

Dirty Older Man Wanted

Well-endowed uncut BM needs very experienced deep throat expert to drain my balls. Looks unimportant. No beginners, aroma, men of color, no teeth a plus. ☎ 7428

Good looking Scat Pig

Handsome lean 33yo with hungry throat, seeks masculine stud with hairy round butt to feed me his long hard logs. ☎ 7429

Bondage & Discipline

Fit white jock slave wanted for whipping, cbt, tt, etc. Master is experienced, sane, responsible in East Bay with well-equipped dungeon. Serious only. ☎ 7430

Spanking

Hard, safe, bare butt discipline. Hand or paddle. Young top. ☎ 7431

Hairy Boy Looking For Daddy

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Temporary Tit Piercing

Top needed to work on bodybuilders hard nipples. ☎ 7433

Ticklish Bottom

35yo, decent shape but not gym-built, masculine, fairly good looking, shy. Seeking a creative experienced top into tickling. I'm very sensitive, easy to get going. ☎ 7434

Big Feet-GBM To Service

Let me service your big clean feet. Kick back with your feet in my face/mouth. GWM-35-50yr. Long toes a plus. East Bay/Oakland. ☎ 7542

Willing To Please

GWM, HIV-mature 5'2", 120# stache, very tight little ass, needs small hand all the way in my pussy. Slow & easy, plus I am a great cocksucker, aroma ok, looks & age open, N.Bay S/F. ☎ 7540

I Need To Practice

Younger bottom boys with nice looking backsides needed by GAM 38 5'6" 140lb. for topping. You have a good body and comfortable. Down on your hands and knees. ☎ 7541

Big Handsome Hungry Bully

Exhibitionist. Let me watch you make a guy lick your boots, toes & asshole. Then sit on his face and make it brown, then give him a golden shower. ☎ 7543

Hot Soap Suds Enemas

44yo bi tv 5'11" 180lbs brn/gm very clean & discreet still searching for enema-mate. I remember the enemas mom & dad used to give me. ☎ 7544

Daytime Asshole-Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 7545

Nasty Raunch

BM, 40, 6'1", 180lbs, handsome, nicely hung. Seeks raunchy hole bottom who likes it wet and natural. Raunchy briefs, hanging balls A+ 20-50 Let's get our freak on. ☎ 7546

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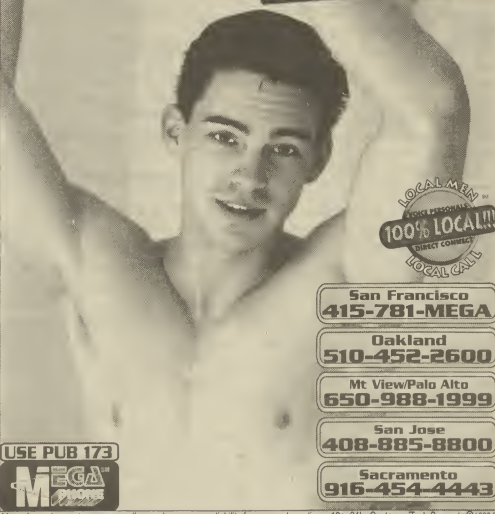
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Get Real

◀ page 48

provokes a crisis in the film.

Determined not to follow the television practice of choosing 20-something actors as faux high school students, the makers of *Get Real* auditioned over 140 genuine teenagers before casting their three leads: Ben Silverstone, Brad Gorton and Charlotte Brittain. Silverstone, who cut his film acting teeth at the age of 13 in the role of Taplow in Mike (Leaving Las Vegas) Figgis' film of *The Browning Version*, and who also portrayed the young Humbert Humbert in Adrian Lyne's new adaptation of *Lolita*, plays Steven Carter as that contradiction in terms, the charismatic nerd. Though he's rail-skinny, Silverstone's impish grin and Spock-like ears give him quite a jolt of erotic voltage, making him a credible lover for Brad Gorton's jock stud, John Dixon, whom one girl at school calls "sex on legs."

Director Shore explains that choosing Silverstone as the pivotal Steven Carter quickly determined the rest of the ensemble. Shore notes that all three leads passed their British college entrance exams with flying colors just before *Get Real* began shooting. He adds that their extraordinary intelligence filled gaps left by real-life experience. "Ben has used his intelligence, not being gay, to be able to find parallels in his kind of more universal experience of being an adolescent, to make all those moments real for him when he's acting them. He would say that every teenager has a completely different life when they're with their parents, when they're with their friends in school, when they're with their friends out of school. And Ben talked to gay friends he had in school, and he kind of very quickly understood the character."

Charlotte Brittain, who will be seen later this year in a new version of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* on NBC, gives a fresh spin to a possibly tired character type, the overweight "fag hag" girlfriend to the geeky closet case. Shore says Linda is based on a roommate Patrick Wilde was living with at the time he wrote the original play. "Charlotte has a wonderful natural sense of comic timing, and she identified a little bit with the character, although in real life Charlotte is much more confident about her body image than Linda is in the film."

Edgy

Inevitably, *Get Real* will be compared to another coming out film. *Edge of Seventeen*, opening

soon, tells how a young man falls out of the closet in Sandusky, Ohio in 1984. Along with its Reagan-era funny clothes and post-*Brady Bunch* bad haircuts, *Edge of Seventeen* is a sexually explicit account of how a young man copes while dating boys and girls. Simon Shore talked with *Edge of Seventeen* director David Moreton, which convinced him that the two films had been created for different audiences. "He had made his film for 30-year-olds to share their memories of having grown up in the '80s. We were making *Get Real* for the audience [writer] Patrick [Wilde] hoped would go see the play and didn't: parents who may have gay children, schoolkids who are not gay but have gay friends, and gay kids themselves. So we're making a film for a much wider audience."

"Actually, the issue is whether society condones a 16-year-old boy falling in love with another boy rather than the specifics of what they do in bed together. There's no sex in *Romeo and Juliet*, and it's still the greatest love story ever told. We were trying to make a love story."

The once again "swinging London" of Prime Minister Tony Blair (with two openly gay cabinet ministers and an out member of the House of Lords) has produced some very edgy gay fiction. A recent Channel Four series called *Queer as Folk* shocked the nation with its portrayals of three very out and unapologetic "party boys," including explicit depictions of a sexual affair between a 15-year-old boy and a 29-year-old man. Shore says even he was amazed at what the eight-part limited series got away with. "It was the most explicit sex that I had ever seen on television. I'm not sure what it did for peoples' understanding of homosexuality, but I'm very glad it was made. It's extraordinary! Ten years ago you would not have believed that that kind of thing could have been made, and I bet it never gets shown on American television."

Simon Shore adds that *Get Real*'s sweet authenticity comes from the filmmakers having listened closely to their young cast about details concerning clothing, music and British teen slang. From Steven's sloppy shirttails to Joe Cocker's growling "You are so beautiful to me" during the prom night dance when the boys are staring over their dates' shoulders into each other's eyes, to John Dixon's double-entendre, "Well, fuck me," during his and Steven's "cute meet" on a park bench, *Get Real* is tuned into how real teenagers feel about the teenage years and their many awkward moments. ▼

then say it, be it."


Part of the fun of Gamson's book is simply the abundance of uncensored comments. One critic on Oprah-wannabe Charles Perez, for example: "As a talk show host, he made a great flight attendant." Or queer filmmaker Gregg Araki, on talk show host Sally Jesse Raphael: "Doesn't she look like a weird, scary drag queen?"

Love them or hate them, these carnivalesque talk shows are one forum where we queers do sometimes get our licks in. Black, openly gay, and then-public affairs director of GLAAD Donald Suggs recalls "sitting next to this guest who at one point said, 'I think what you sodomites do is disgusting.' And I said exactly what went through my head at the time. I turned to him and said, 'You know what, it would be disgusting if I was doing it with you.' The audience howled and howled." ▼

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photography by greg bruce.



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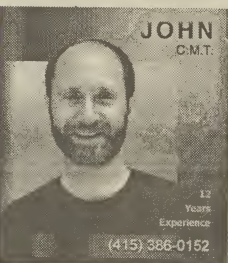


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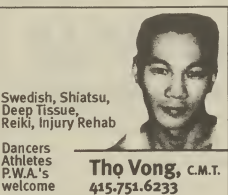
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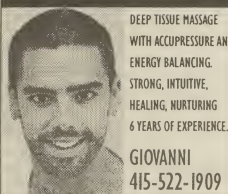


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Out There

◀ page 38

with the promise that the topic of the show would be "The truth about surgical sex reassignment," only to find that the theme really was "Transsexuals with regrets."

Then there are all those shows about married men who leave their wives for other men. Gamson writes, "An old association between gayness and untrustworthiness is being reproduced here, as is the questionable notion that being left for someone of the opposite sex is more humiliating than being left for someone of one's own sex. But at the heart of this kind of treatment is the irresponsibility of the closet, the damage done by men who are gay... but enter straight relationships. As an ex-wife of a gay man says on *Rolonda*, 'If you're gay,

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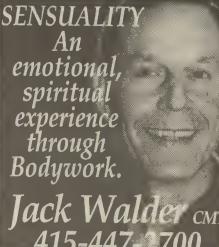
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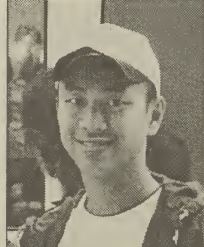
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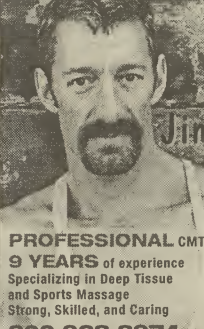
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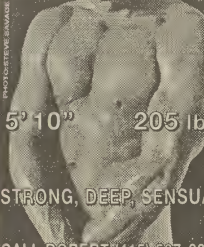
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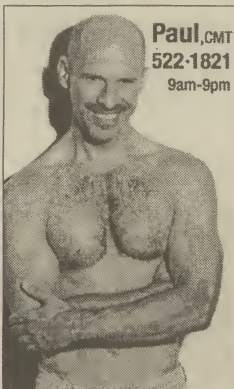
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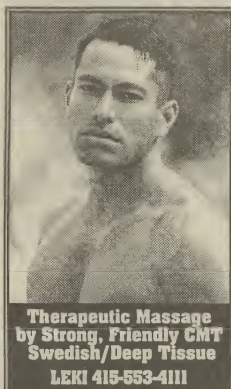
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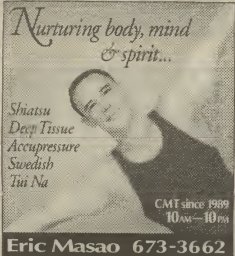
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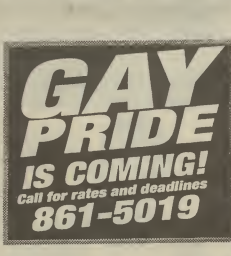
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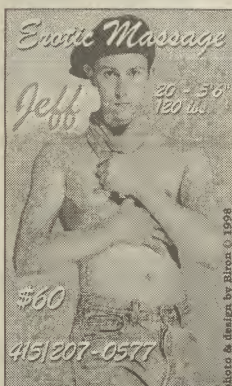
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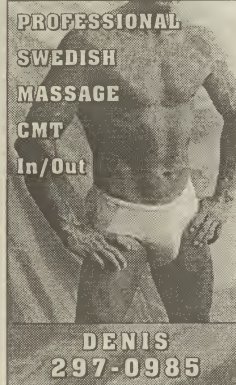
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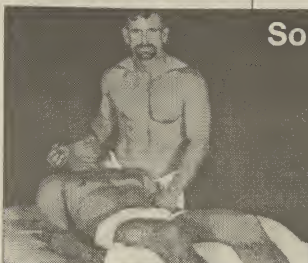
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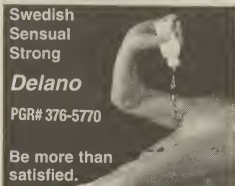
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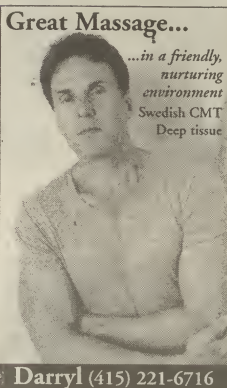
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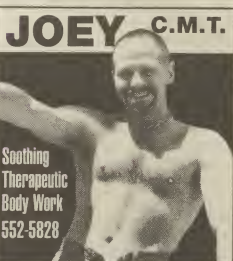
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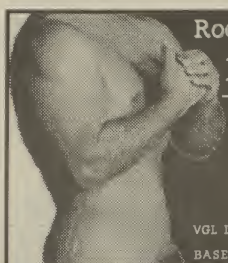
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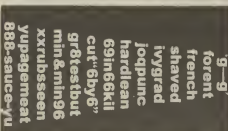
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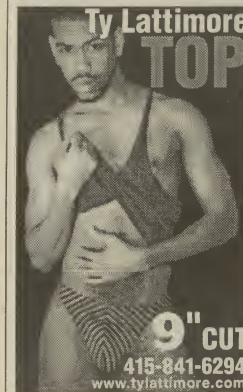
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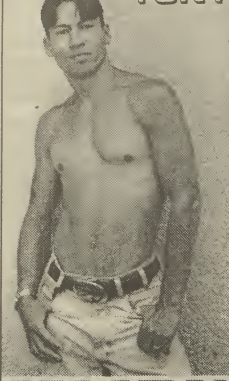
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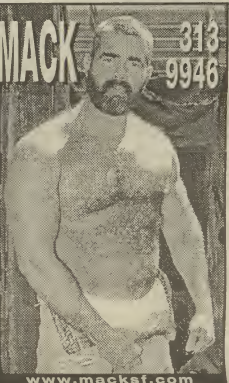
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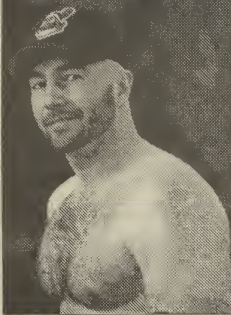
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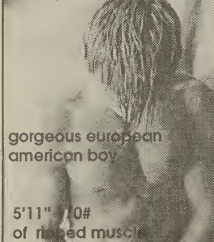


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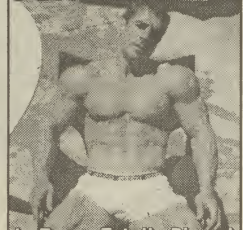
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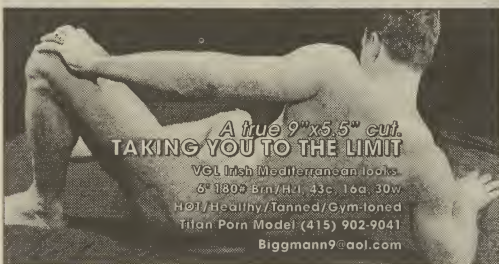


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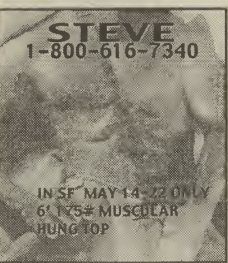


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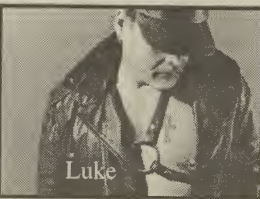
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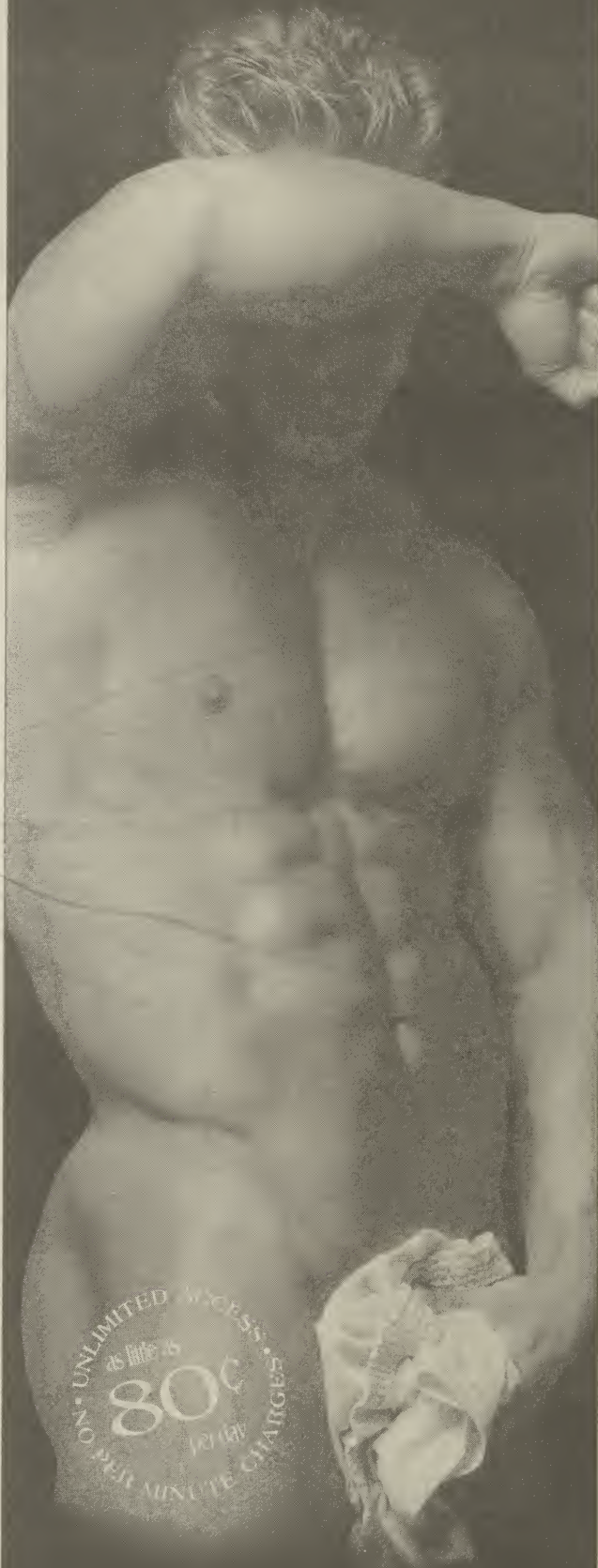
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